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CONTENTS.

The All-India Library and Periodical Exhibition :

Welcome Address : By K. Ramarao, M. A , L. T.	1
President's Opening Address : By K. Nageswara Rao	....	2
Description of the Exhibition ....	....	4

The Seventh All-India Public Library Conference :

Welcome Address : By Rajah Saheb of Challapalli	....	5
Opening Speech : By Dharmavir Vaman R. Naik	....	7
Presidential Address : By Dr. V. S. Ram	....	10
Organisation and Spread of Public Libraries By R. Janardanam Naidu, B.A., L.T., D.E., (Oxon)	....	20
Tea-Party	....	20
Lantern Lecture	....	20
Second Day's Proceedings : Papers Read	....	21
Subjects Committee	....	21
Resolutions	....	21
Messages	24

All-India Public Library Association : List of Office-bearers	26
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All-India Library Week : Detailed Programme	27
---	------	----

The Madras Libraries Bill : Explanatory Note to Amendments	30
--	------	----

The Madras Libraries Bill : Corrected according to amendments proposed By The All-India Public Library Association	32
---	------	----

XV Andhra Desa Libraries Conference :

Welcome Address : By G. Ramachandra Rao	....	41
Opener's Speech : N. V. L. Narasimha Rao, Bar-at-law	....	44
Presidential Address : B. Seetarama Raju, Barister-at-law	....	45
Formation of Sub-committees	....	50
Evening Sessions	....	50
Report of the Sub-committees	....	50
Resolutions	....	50
Second Day's Sessions	....	51

The Silver Jubilee Celebration of The Andhra Library Movement	....	52
Welcome Address : By T. Jagannadham, M.A., B.L.	....	54
Messages	....	54
Opening Speech : By The Raja Saheb of Challapalli	....	57
Presidential Address : By Chatti Narasimha Rao	....	58
Second Day's Proceedings : Exchange of Experiences	....	60
Special Gift of "Saraswati"	....	61
Appreciation	....	61
Work Before Us :		
By T. C. Dutt, Secretary Bengal Library Association	....	62
Village Libraries and their Functions : Ellore Taluq Library Conference		
By Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao B.A., B.L.	....	63
The Sixth Kistna District Libraries Conference	....	67
Welcome Address : By A. V. S. D. Prasada Rao	....	67
Opening Speech : By V. V. Sreshti	....	68
Presidential Address : By A. Narayana Rao, M.A., B.Sc.	....	69
Resolutions	....	69
Bezwada Library Association : (Anniversary Celebration)	....	70
Library Movement in Andhra Desa : A Controversy	....	71
Libraries in Andhra Desa : A Rejoinder By K. V. Krishnaswami Aiyar	71	
Library Movement in Andhra Desa : Reply to Rejoinder	....	71
By N. V. L. Narasimha Rao, M.A , LL.B., Barister-at-law	72	
By Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, B.A., M.B., & C.M.	....	74
Bengal Library Association : Reorganisation	....	75
Madras Library Bill : A Criticism	....	77
Our Bengal Libraries Trip : By two Library Enthuasts	....	79
Public Library Movement in India	....	81
Essentially for the Masses : Editorial from Madras Mail	....	83
Syllabus for Training in Librarianship : Prepared by Andhra Committee		84
55th American Library Convention :		
By Dr. S. S. Nehru, M.A., Ph D., I.C.S.	....	85
Editorials :		
Ourselves	....	92
The Calcutta Conference	....	92
The First All-India Rural Library Service Conference	....	94
G. O. M. of Indian Libraries	....	95

it is difficult to restrain one's feelings of appreciation for and refer to the work of the late lamented Suri Venkata Narasimha Sastry. It is a name that we cannot afford to forget now at this time when we are met to derive inspiration from an exhibition of Books, periodicals, pictures, games and other Library impedimenta. The achievements of Mr. Sastri in directing the course of the Library Movement, in this

traditions continues even to this day, as the invisible and theoretic centre of the Public Library idea. At the same time, Andhra had come under the impact of western and modern notions of Free Public Libraries and we find the beginnings of these even so long ago as eighties of the last century. Whatever be the particularly advantageous conditions available in Andhra for the working and propagation of the Public Library Movement, its special All India character is overlooked. The prob-

The Seventh Session of the All India Public Library Conference and Exhibition was held at Bezwada on the 16th April 1933, and the following days in the spacious pandal erected specially for the occasion. The interior of the Ram Mohan Library was utilised for the Exhibition section, while the Conference took place in the pandal itself which was gaily decorated with floral festoons, streamers and arches. A large number of delegates and visitors from all over India were present. The dis-

tinguished guests were received at the entrance by the Chairman of the Reception Committee and given a rousing welcome by the "Ravi" Volunteers who provided excellent strains of music.

The proceedings began with prayer by Satavadhani V. Sivarama Sastri of All-India fame. Mr. K. Rama Rao, M. A., L. T., Chairman of the Exhibition Reception Committee then welcomed the visitors in the following terms.

Welcome Address

By Mr. K. Rama Rao, M. A. L. T.

Fellow delegates and friends,

I have great pleasure on behalf of the All India Library and Periodical Exhibition Reception Committee to extend to you a warm and heart-felt welcome. The Exhibition has been an inevitable and instructive feature of the All India Public Libraries' Conference ever since its inception. The First Exhibition held at Madras several years ago was opened by His Excellency Lord Willingdon and in doing so, he expressed the great value of Libraries and Library Exhibitions in the scheme of National Economy and stated that he looked

upon the inception of the library scheme as one of the finest forms of publicity that one can possibly imagine.

Since then the Library movement had gathered strength and momentum in spite of the depressing period through which the country had passed. Though it has been said that the movement had received a set back, permit me to state that, from the number of conferences that have taken place during the last two or three years under the auspices of the All India and Andhra Public Libraries' Associations and the new libraries that have been started

By T. C. Dutt, Secretary Bengal Library Association 62

~~Villages~~ who have been striving to hold a separate All India Library Conference will give up their efforts and associate with the existing institution and strengthen it. That the new project has been compelled to shift dates and places of meeting and that it continues still to live in the hope of holding it "sometime" in the end of the third quarter of this year carries sufficient condemnation with it. It is time that there is a united attempt on the part of all workers in the Library Movement to harness their resources and work out in accordance with a defined plan of Libraries Development. In my view, Library Development has to proceed in two parallel directions. One is the spread of the message of Library extension throughout the length and breadth of India and the other is a scientific study of methods of Library administration and management. Both these objectives must be reached through the central directional agency of the All India Pub-

ence and standing. Sectional rivalries do not promote harmony and in the work of the Library Movement as in any other, united service is essential. I look forward to the elimination of any attitude that will tend to create the least measure of illwill or misunderstanding in the organisation of the Library Movement and on the hope of a united endeavour on the part of all lovers of Library Movement will rest the strength of the institution. The educative value of these Exhibitions is exceedingly great and I hope it will serve in enlightening the masses.

I wish you once again on behalf of the Reception Committee a very warm welcome.

VERSES OF WELCOME

Verses of welcome to the President and delegates were read by the Andhra Poet T. Govardhana Rao.

President's Opening Address

By Mr. K. Nageswararao

Desodharaka Mr. K. Nageswara Rao Pantulu next declared the Exhibition open and in doing so, stated as follows:—

I am grateful to you for having honoured me with the invitation to

open the seventh session of the All India Library and Periodical Exhibition. On a momentous occasion like this, and specially when one addresses a gathering in Andhra Desa on Library Movement,

it is difficult to restrain one's feelings of appreciation for and refer to the work of the late lamented Suri Venkata Narasimha Sastry. It is a name that we cannot afford to forget now at this time when we are met to derive inspiration from an exhibition of Books, periodicals, pictures, games and other Library impedimenta. The achievements of Mr. Sastri in directing the course of the Library Movement, in this vast country are not merely praise worthy, but have formed, as it were, the foundations for the Indian Public Library Movement in general. Nor can I fail to make mention, in this connection of the name of Mr. Iyyanki Venkata Ramanayya, in this field of activity, and I have no manner of doubt in stating now that this exhibition is a visible manifestation of their corporate attempts.

Let us turn now towards the history of the Library Movement within the last twenty years. The inception of this movement of vast national potentialities owes its existence to that refined and enlightened prince, the Gaikwar of Baroda, who for the first time in India's History introduced with the assistance of Mr. Borden of America, the system of Free Public Libraries in this country. From Baroda where, under State Patronage, it has made great strides, the impetus for the Free Public Libraries movement was communicated to Andhra Desa, and how it had developed there and given birth to the All India Public Libraries Association are matters of history. In Andhra specially, it found a fertile soil to thrive, the seeds of Public Library Movement having been already there for long time previously. The Institution of the Public Temple with all its immemorial literary and academic

traditions continues even to this day, as the invisible and theoretic centre of the Public Library idea. At the same time, Andhra had come under the impact of western and modern notions of Free Public Libraries and we find the beginnings of these even so long ago as eighties of the last century. Whatever be the particularly advantageous conditions available in Andhra for the working and propagation of the Public Library Movement, its special All India character cannot be overlooked. The problem of illiteracy and the need for providing more knowledge to the people, have become basic and vital for the whole of India, calling for an extensive effort. For the fulfilment of these requirements, we need the coordinated enthusiasm and endeavour from all sections of our countrymen. The Andhras have been charged with lethargy and dilatoriness in the matter of progressing with the Library Movement. I repudiate such an accusation. The Andhras are to my mind, most daring, in their conception and achievement. Noble and unsullied emotions, animate every inch of their existence. In literature as much as in art, they have given remarkable evidences, of their accomplishments. Not only that, they have contributed in a measure second to none, to the spread of Social Reform, and social uplift. Their sacrifices are many and varied and in whatever that tended towards liberty and freedom, they had played a noble part and willingly given their all. And I might say now with pardonable pride that the Library Movement which has lent itself not a little to the liberation of the most catholic Ideals of citizenship, has its bearings rooted in the solid work of the Andhra youth. To such, I extend my warmest congratulations, and trust

that the work of leading the Library Movement will be carried on without being deterred by calumniations by prejudiced critics. It is true that the Andhras lie under special disabilities, on account of the lack of a separate Province for themselves; but with the existing resources, and with the previous record of selfless social work to inspire them, they will, I am sure, keep the torch of learning alive and burning, ~~through their disciplined service in the~~ cause of the Library Movement.

We need not rest on our oars. As I stated before, the sphere is limitless and the scope for work equally wide. It is capable of enlisting the true support and sympathy of all genuine workers interested in the advancement of India's status. Without rivalries, without jealousies, it must and ought to live; dissension and dispute are the bane of effective growth. The situation commands every one to throw in his lot for the literary emancipation of the country. No sacrifice is too great for it, and I hope this exhibition which forms part of the All India Public Library Conference will be popularly received everywhere, and will help forward the growth of knowledge. The display of pictures, books, charts, graphs, and periodicals bring home to us, not only the distinctive genius of each nation, but also the quota of work done by them.

I have great pleasure in declaring this exhibition open.

EXHIBITION.

The delegates and visitors to the Conference then went through the Exhibition Hall, Mr. K. Nageswara Rao leading. The exhibits which comprised rare manuscripts in addition to other books and periodicals were carefully examined and appreciated. Among the exhibits were rare journals published in English and other vernaculars collected notably by Andhra Desa Library Association, Andhra Historical Research Association, and Sree Nataraja Sabha of Madras. Another interesting feature was the large collection of pictures showing the magnificent libraries on the continent of Europe, America and other countries. Special charts showing the arrangements in modern libraries, were also on view. Graphs showing at a glance the progress of the Library Movement in Andhra Desa and other countries and portraits of eminent librarians in all parts of the world were exhibited. There was a Children's corner in the Exhibition, in which model toys and picture study books suitable to the impressionable mind of the child were also shown. The Exhibition, on account of the interesting Exhibits it contained, attracted large numbers of visitors.

The Seventh All India Public Library Conference, April 16th & 17th - 1933. B e z w a d a

The Seventh session of The All-India Public Library conference was held at Bezvada in the large decorated pendal specially erected for the purpose. The proceedings began with the offering of Musical prayers by a band of young Andhra girls after which, Sree Rajah Y. Sivarama Prasad Bahadur, Zamindar of Challapalli, Chairman of the Reception Committee welcomed the visitors and delegates to the Session. Besides delegates from various Provinces of India, a large number of visitors including ladies was present. Among them were Major T. S. Sastri I. M. S., Mr. Joshi, Mr. Hanumanta Rao, Mr. J. V. Subbarao, the District Educational officer, Mrs. Ranganayakamma, Mrs. Satyavati Devi, V. Ramadas, Rao Bahadur Ranganathachari, Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Mr. B. Poor-

nayya, Retired Superintendent of Telegraphs K. Sivaramakrishna Rao, Principal, Hindu college, N. Subbaraju, President, Taluq Board, M. Ali Baig B. A., B. L., M. L. C; K. Pattabhiramiah M. L. C; C. K. Reddi B. A. B. L. M. L. C. A. Kaleswara Rao Ex M. L. C. & Ex Chairman Municipal Council; K. Subbarao Ex. Chairman Municipal Council, G. Ramachandra Rao, Honorary Magistrate Mr. P. Suryanarayana Rao, Honorary, Magistrate and Vice President, Taluq Board, Zamindars of Jayantipuram, Gollapalli and Rangapuram, M. Hanumantha Rao, C. V. R. Sresthi; P. R. Janardanam Naidu, Librarian, Connemra Public Library (Madras) M. Bapineedu M.Sc., Member, Syndicate, Andhra University, and B. Jagannadha Das.

Welcome Address

By Rajasaheb of Challapalli

The following speech was delivered by Rajah Sivarama Prasad Bahadur as Chairman of the Reception Committee:-

Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Reception Committee of the Eighth Session of the All India Public Libraries Conference, I have great pleasure in according to you

a very hearty reception to this convention which will be engaged ere long in determining the needs and methods of extending the library movement in India. I am aware of the shortcomings which the delegates will experience on the occasion of such a gathering like this and I hope you will generously

overlook it if we did anything that would calculate towards the minimisation of comfort. May I say that, in spite of it, our welcome to you is none the less sincere and our co-operation with you in solving the large problems associated with the library movement none the less fraternal?

This is the first time since the inauguration of the All India Library Conference that it meets at Bezwada though ~~it has been that the idea of such conference emanated from here and its regular working had been continued to be controlled from this place, under the direction of the late Mr. Venkata Narasimha Sastri practically the pioneer of the Public Library Movement in British India and Mr. Iyyanki Venkataramanaiah, the veteran unostentatious library publicist so well known to all who have had any share or part in the building up of library organisations in this country.~~ It is only appropriate that for once at least the conference should take place at Bezwada and I assure my fellow workers who are gathered here today that towards the success of this conference and towards the promotion of the library movement in this vast continent, despite the great loss we have suffered in the demise of our esteemed collaborator, Mr. Narasimha Sastri, we in Bezwada will progressively contribute in materiel and personnel so far as it lies in us to do so.

The problems before the workers in the field of the library movement are many and I have no doubt that they will receive the fullest attention in the plenary session of the conference in its deliberative stages. But one aspect of it needs mention. The Library movement is one of widest possibility and creates larger fields for service, the more you probe it. The infinitude of the

movement while admitting of varied lines of activity can be one and remain united only in its organisation and comprehension. The All India Public Library Association which has done such meritorious work in the past has a greater and more exacting nature of service in the future. With the rise in the literacy of the country, with the growth in the level of education both among men and women, the need for a regulated plan of action on the part of the Central Organisation of the All India Public Library Association is great. The delay in convening the Seventh Conference of Libraries was due mainly to the economic blizzard that devastated in its course many a public and private institution in India and unsettled the determined plans of many organisations. Notwithstanding the economic depression and political uncertainty, the programme of the Library Movement cannot be allowed to suffer without irreparable damage to the cultural and intellectual advancement of the millions that inhabit this practically limitless area of our continent. The Library Movement as I see and feel it, is essentially one for the masses rather than for the classes. The latter can afford the luxuries of collections of books to suit their individual tastes but the masses who form the major section of India's population need the fresh open springs of intellectual refinement, without search, without sacrifice. Towards that task of humanitarian uplift, the All India Public Library Association must address itself immediately and explore without delay the avenues of activity whereby knowledge can be extended and made to reach the homes of the poor and thirsty intellectual wayfarer. If I may be pardoned for intruding into a realm which is ex-

clusively that of the conference, I would request the conference to embark upon a continuative scheme of Libraries' Expansion which doubtless calls for state aid. I am not a through and through believer of rigid silence of private effort and I feel that the strength of any movement can be measured by the volume of private effort and collective organised public opinion behind it. This however does not mean that the state has no responsibility of its own in this direction. More than in any other feature of social reform, more than in the reformation of temples or of any other stereotyped measure of social elevation, the state owes greater obligation to the masses to help them see the lamp of knowledge and derive comfort and vigour through its soft lights. I plead therefore, with this conference; with the Government of India and with the provincial Governments and finally with that great arbiter of National Destiny, the people of India, to bring the pressure of Public opinion to bear on the task of extending the Public Library Movement so that every one of the 750,000 villages of India may have a centre of intellectual refreshment and cultural growth which will, in their end, serve to restore Aryavarttha to that plane of intellectual eminence from which, owing to external aggression and internal dissension, she has unconsciously slid through the passage

of centuries to the levelless morass of cultural degradation and mass illiteracy we so veritably and painfully experience around us. To liquidate the millions from illiteracy, from lack of education and from deficiency in character through private endeavour and through state action is the need of the hour. Private effort through a comprehensive and intensive, organisational programme by the All India Public Library Association on the one hand and state legislation which will enable to afford Library institutions financial and other forms of assistance and will make provision for a Department of Libraries and Fine Arts on the other will; I submit, tend to promote the objects and ideals of the Public Library Movement in India. I hope in this work of amelioration the leaders of Indian thought will forcefully participate invigorating it with their partnership. The work of technical Librarianship may be left to experts and scientific men in the field; but the immediate and limitless sphere of libraries expansion is open to all. May it attract the best of our talent so that in the economy of our village life, the library may be an integral part.

On behalf of the Reception Committee, I once again offer you welcome to this, the Seventh Session of the All India Public Libraries' Conference.

Opening Speech

By Dharmavir Vaman R. Naik.

The Chairman of the Reception committee then requested Mr. Dharmavir Vaman R. Naik. Jagirdar, to open the conference.

After being garlanded by the Raja Saheb of Challapalli, Mr. Vaman R. Naik, in declaring the conference open, delivered the following instructive address :—

I thank you most profoundly for the honour you have done me in asking me to open the 7th Sessions of the "All India Public Library Conference"; but I must express my surprise at your choice of me for the task, for I have neither title nor scholarship to do proper justice to the role I am asked to play. What excuse there is for this choice of me I cannot see, except that I am conscious of the little interest I have evinced in the public endeavours for national uplift. However, resistance to importunities of my esteemed friends Srijt. D. T. Rao & Iyyanki Venkataramanayya having proved unavailing, I have at last overcoming my diffidence, consented to discharge to the best of my ability the function assigned to me in the hope that you will not expect me to treat you in the course of my opening speech to a symposium of what the library movement stands for, but will look to our esteemed friend the learned President for all that intellectual delectation and enlightenment.

In declaring this conference open, I invoke the blessing of the All Powerful Ruler of the destinies of nations to help us to understand the objects for which we have met here today in its right perspective, to inspire us with courage and wisdom to take correct decisions and to sustain us with a will to translate those decisions into action in our own spheres, according to our capacities, on our return from here to our respective places.

The Library Movement in any country is designed to foster the growth of education and culture, for, a library is a repository of the works of the best minds. The influence of the Library begins with the knowledge of the Three R's. Library, Lecture Hall, school and press are all

universities in themselves which greatly influence the destiny of mankind, but of these, the Library is the most potent. No country even in the early days existed without its library maintained in the forms that were possible in the then existing conditions; bricks, tiles, birch leaves, stone tablets, copper plates, papyrus, parchment palm leaves, and such other material as suggested to their understanding, were used by the ancients to inscribe their cultural ideas and thoughts on life and its problems, as in their time printing and paper had been unknown.

The States spent enormous amounts in the preservation of Literature & Art, in all their splendour so that they might influence the education of the human mind to all the glory and beauty of creation and also form living evidence of the types of culture that evolved at different times the progress of human growth. But in most countries these priceless treasures were destroyed by ruthless acts of vandalism by invading nations in the conceit of their victories, not knowing the enormity of the crime they were perpetrating against themselves and the humanity, for which there could be no exploitation. The vast treasures of our Vedic literature and ancient learning preserved in Bhurjaputra in Sharada Peetha at Kashmir, were destroyed by throwing them on the banks of the Krishnaganga by old Tartar invaders thus leaving the world poorer in knowledge. But luckily for us all was not lost as the learned men of those times had memorised all that there was to learn, and each was a living library disseminating knowledge from generation to generation.

However, as civilisation advanced, and with it new inventions have come to be made; abundant facilities have

sprung up for recording the human endeavour in all the realm of living and securing to the world these valuable possessions. With the advent of printing press and paper, it has been easy for spreading knowledge. Library constitutes the main source of knowledge and the movement to organise it in a scientific and efficient manner, is of paramount necessity. No country which lays claim to culture and civilisation can afford to ignore the organisation of Public Libraries which are at once the greatest asset of any nation. A nation is indeed poor and not cultured, which has no intellectual possessions, however rich and great its material resources are. Therefore, it is as much a duty of the State, as that of the people, to inaugurate a movement of this description which aims at collecting such possessions and is calculated to produce a whole nation of cultured and enlightened people, who understand their mutual obligations and live a happy life of truth and love.

I believe that an extensive organisation of libraries all over the country reaching every hamlet is bound to lead to many good results. Firstly, the libraries will combat illiteracy, provoke thirst for knowledge and supply it in abundance in whatever department of human activity such knowledge is required. Secondly, they bring into existence the leisured class who make the world richer in knowledge by their contributions on Art, Literature, Science, Philosophy, Politics and the like, exercise a corrective influence on the vagarish tendencies of human nature and rouse the whole nation into action by satirising life and parodying vanities and thus purge society of impious thoughts and actions. Thirdly, they relieve to an extent unemployment amongst the

intellectual proletariat, if I may so coin an expression and fourthly they will stand as the tabernacle of learning and wisdom where young and old, rich, and poor can alike draw inspiration and knowledge without expense.

No school, no teacher, can give the completest training and equipment that a library can. No scheme of education will be complete without the libraries being an essential part of it. Schools can at best create an urge for higher understanding and a taste for intellectual development in the young mind, but libraries alone can satisfy the cravings so generated. Therefore the Public Library Movement is as important a branch of national uplift as the political or the social, though as much attention and thought has not been bestowed to the former as to the two latter by most of our public men. This movement is not only a branch but the real basis of national uplift. Without mass education no nation will have the moral stamina and strength of character to sustain it through all the vicissitudes of time.

I am delighted that we have realised in recent years the vital importance of the Library Movement and have been making strenuous efforts to establish a network of libraries on a permanent basis. It is indeed no small matter to control and guide this movement in a scientific way. It calls into play all the organising talents and resources of the leaders interested in it. They must address themselves heart and soul to push it forward. The communal life of a village cannot be stirred to its rights and obligations unless every member of it is educated to a sense of his importance. Village libraries which cannot be established in as comprehensive a manner as the metropolitan ones,

must be such as suit the genius of the people. Itinerant libraries must be the connecting links between these libraries catering to the higher tastes of the people as they develop. Lending and circulating libraries must be as freely created as the demand for them grows. But these are matters of detail which rightly fall within the purview of the Presidential address, and it shall not be proper for me to trench upon the rights of the President, by any further reference to them.

The lead given by no less a person than His Highness the Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwar of Baroda who is rightly called the father of the modern public library movement, in India, has been inciting us to more intensive action and greater achievements in this field.

The late Srjt. S. V. Narasimhasastry Garu gave this movement a great impetus in the Andhra Desa by the ardour and zeal with which he interested himself in it. Though a pleader he did not pay as much attention to his profession and his own needs as many others would have done in his position but with selflessness devoted his time and energies to the study of the move-

ment, published instructive and educative books on the subject and made himself the life and soul of the movement not only in the Andhra Desa, but in the whole of India. It is a matter of no small tribute to his genuine work that he should have awakened the country to the importance of this movement and developed it so wonderfully without the facilities and resources of H. H. The Maharaja Gaikwar.

Sjt. Iyyenki Venkataramayya is another enthusiast in the cause whose tenacious travail in its behalf is indeed commendable. Men of the calibre and tenacity of these gentlemen alone can render any movement in which they are interested, a success.

Let me wish this Conference a success and let me wish that its labours will find repercussions all over the country. With a fervent prayer that all the forces that tend to make us a virile nation, shall function and prosper, I have great pleasure in declaring this Conference open.

Mr. Naik's address over, the chairman of the Reception committee announced that the conference would stand adjourned till 4 P. M.

Afternoon Session

Messages of good wishes

The proceedings of the conference were resumed exactly at 4 O'clock. The General Secretary read out the messages of good wishes from distin-

guished public men and leaders and workers of the Library Movement in India and Ceylon. A few among are given in the Appendix.

Presidential Address

By Dr. V. S. Ram

After the reading of the messages, Mr. A. Kaleswararao proposed Dr. V. S. RAM, M. A., Ph., D., F.R.H.S., Head of the Department of Political Science, Lucknow University, to the chair, and Mr. M. Bapineedu seconded

it. The President who was given a rousing ovation, delivered the following address.—

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am deeply sensible of the honour you have conferred on me in electing me to the presidentship of the All-India Libraries Conference. I know it could have been conferred upon one more qualified and worthy of the position, but I take it the honour you conferred is not personal but a compliment to the Andhra Desa (which organized the first All-India Library Conference held in Madras in 1919) and to which I am proud to belong. It is also a compliment to the Educational workers, who have a great responsibility in this field of work.

The library movement is of comparatively recent origin even in Western countries and is the result of democratic influences that obtained an ascendancy towards the end of the last century. The desire to extend the benefits of learning to the people at large, suggested the foundation of numerous public libraries. The possibilities of libraries as instruments of popular education have ever since occupied the attention of those interested in this movement. Much thought has been given in recent years to the best methods of popularising the use of libraries. The library movement as an aid to adult education has long been realised and no nation can aspire to rise to contribute to the world's culture unless it has equipped itself with a network of libraries adequate and suitable to the nation's needs.

Illiteracy in India: According to the census of 1921 there were in India 293 million illiterates and 23 million literates who were able only to read and write a simple letter. (The figures for British

India only are 229 million illiterates out of a total population of 247 millions). The literates include 20 million of men and only 3 million women. The percentage of persons over the age of 20 years who were literates was 18 per cent men and 2 per cent women, or 10 per cent for both. Moreover 92 per cent of the population of India live in villages of which there are 669,000 and with a population below 2,000 each and the proportion of literates among the rural population probably does not exceed more than 5 per cent. The backwardness thus created, is one of the main causes, if not the main cause, that stunt the growth of the villagers in every walk of life. It is strange that only 34 to 35 per cent of the boys and 5 per cent of the girls of the school going age are being educated in primary schools.

The importance of primary education is more and more acknowledged and the public is taking advantage of the facilities provided. This can be well illustrated from the following figures as regards number of pupils in recognized primary schools in British India:—

1917	72,07,000
1922	77,42,000
1927	1,05,28,000
1928	1,11,60,000

But actual results are apparently not so satisfactory as would appear on the surface.

According to Sir Philip Hartog about 60 per cent of the money spent on primary education is wasted and thrown away owing to the stagnation and consequent illiteracy resulting in failure of the vast majority of primary pupils to spend four years in the primary school course. Out of 100 pupils who were in class I in 1922-23 only 18 were in class IV in 1925-26. The wastage in the

case of girls is far greater than that for boys. Of 5,34,000 school going girls in class I in 1922, only 56,000 i. e. nearly 10 per cent were in class IV four years later. Thus there is a huge wastage of funds on primary education. In order to utilize money spent on primary education the Government must come forward and start continuation schools, schemes of adult education etc. for the pupils who relapse into illiteracy after leaving the schools. In this connection, the spread of the library movement and adult education will render yeoman service to the nation.

Adult Education: From a political as well as from an economic point of view, adult education is undoubtedly essential to the masses. Now what do we mean by adult education? Mainly it is education for those who have not had the opportunities of higher education, covering in a broad way the moral and intellectual development of the people through books and the daily papers and associations with our fellows. The U. S. A. has led the world in organising the public library service on an educational pattern for modern needs in adult education. From the time of Emerson, the U. S. A. has shown us the power of the public lecture (The Lowell Institute lectures), the holding of the summer school and of the conferences, great things to have done for an ideal of adult education. India too had in the past a great wealth of adult education, in her ancient philosophy, in her legends, and not least in the methods and discussions of her village selfgovernment.

The growth of interest in the Public library as an indispensable factor in adult education has been very remarkable during recent years in the West. In America, the library association has undertaken a special inquiry into the

possibility of further development. In Great Britain, the Adult Education Committee appointed in 1923 by the President of the Board of Education, set up a sub-committee on Public libraries. But in India unfortunately Education Authorities and Public library Committees rarely work hand in hand, and the Library is in very few places treated as one of our chief educational assets. The tacit assumption is that education has nothing to gain from Public libraries, and that the Public libraries cater for something which is no part of what we call education. The term "Education" is used in India as applying only to organized teaching and is only a preliminary to—a kind of scaffolding for—the real education which makes the efficient citizen, and which can be acquired only by developing the adult mind enriched by practical experience and wise reading. Accordingly one of the prime lessons to be taught by the school master and the University Professor is respect for books as the main storehouse and record of human achievement, the knowledge of how to use them and where they can be obtained. In other words, even the child, whose formal education ends at 12 or 14, should have it in the fibre of his mind that he is one of the owners of it, and that it is one of his proudest and most useful possessions. Over the main entrance to the Farmers' Public Library of the City of Boston there runs the dignified legend "Erected by the citizens of Boston for the Advancement of Learning". Every citizen ought to realise the truth of this dictum and utilize to the best of his ability the library facilities for the spread of wider education.

Let us now come to a practical programme. The questions for us are: (1)

What ought to be done? (2) What does it cost? (3) Who ought to do it? (4) How soon can it be done? The answer to the first question is that there ought to be a public library in every school, village, town and Municipality of India and a steady inculcation in the school of the habit of looking beyond the school shelves to the public library. In addition to the school library, pupils from 10 or 12 years onward should be introduced generally or in classes, to the Municipal library and Museum (if any). Thus and thus only shall we create a library using public out of the ranks of adolescents. No child ought to leave the school without being given a library ticket so that he may continue the reading habit he formed in the school when he leaves the school.

The existing facilities for adult education are few and no sincere attempt is being made to study the needs of the Indian masses. Great Britain appointed some time ago, a committee on adult education. The committee rightly remarked "Adult education is a permanent national necessity, an inseparable aspect of citizenship and, therefore, should be both universal and life-long." Side by side with the adult education in schools, village libraries must be maintained. Now we come to our second question namely, what does it cost? The establishment of libraries in every village, town and district will no doubt cost an enormous amount and this can be done only by the joint action of the State and public. The educational budgets of each province should make a separate provision for libraries and also the locality concerned should raise a special education and library tax in addition to raising donations and endowments for this purpose. For, I do not believe in the dictum that we should

leave everything for state action. The public must first help themselves in the matter and then call for state aid. In America, the movement would never have been the great success it is if public spirited citizens like the late Andrew Carnegie and others had not endowed large sums of money for this purpose. Surely we cannot say that we have no such philanthropic citizens in our own country. If we appeal to them in the proper manner I have no doubt we can make a good beginning in the matter. If we have a ten year plan for this purpose, we can before 1943 see that every town and village in the entire country has a well equipped library of its own. I am ashamed to say that my own village of Attili in the West Godavary District (though it produced several distinguished men in all walks of life) has yet no library of its own. If I may strike a personal note, I have pleasure in announcing here and now, the donation of a library building and a nucleus of books for a library, which I hope will be developed into a powerful library by the encouragement and contributions of my fellow townsmen of Attili, some of whom are rich and able. But as I said before private endowment alone is not enough. The village should set apart a portion of its taxes and revenues for this purpose and this can only be done by legislation and state aid. It is up to our representatives in the Madras Legislative Council to see that a bill is introduced to give effect to the provision of state aid to libraries throughout the Province.

Let us see how the library movement has worked in other Eastern countries like the Philippines, where it has been started only since 1900 by the Americans. Despite the fact that public school libraries in the Philippines are

almost entirely dependent upon fees, benefits, donations, etc. rather than upon public taxation for their support, much progress is being made each year in establishing them and in augmenting the number of books in them. During the year 1921-1922 there were a total of 2,758 school libraries with a total of 482,023 books. In addition, the Bureau of Education furnishes travelling libraries to different school divisions, which are of great benefit to pupils and to the public in out-of-the-way places. Though under the Department of Justice, an educational activity of the Philippine Government is the Philippine Library and Museum. This is not only a single library but is a system of libraries. It is the purpose of the Government to place branches of the library in all the provinces, and in the capital city.

At present there are four library branches in the capitals of the provinces. In the Central Library there are over 500,000 volumes. An important activity of the Philippine Library and Museum is the Legislative Reference Division, which has been established to help members of the Legislature and other officials in the preparation of bills and to furnish them such information on public affairs as can be found in the 340,000 books and publications in this division. The work of the division covers the investigation of legislation and governmental activities of other countries. There are 360 public libraries distributed all over the Philippines maintained by either the Insular, Provincial or Municipal Governments. In addition to these, there are semi-public libraries belonging to the bureaus of education, religious corporations and civic organisations,

Unlike in India, the number of people receiving secondary education and higher education in the Philippines is small, being 0.89 per cent and 0.13 per cent respectively, while 35.9 per cent of the people have received primary education.

The expenditure for public education per capita of population in the Philippines was 2.141 pesos in 1921. The liberality of the appropriation for education will be appreciated when it is remembered that the total per capita tax is 6.40 pesos. In other words one-third of the total taxation is devoted to public education, including the maintenance of libraries. The sum is further augmented by Municipal appropriations and various local contributions in the form of money, labour, and materials.

To take an example in our own country, the library movement in Baroda dates from 1910 when H.H. the Maharaja of Gaekwad, touring for the second time in the United States, engaged the services of the late Mr. W. A. Borden as organiser and director of a State Library Department. Mr. Borden was well qualified for his work, being a library expert of some years' standing. He had, in fact been an instructor in the first library school—the famous school organized by Dr. Melvil Dewey in Columbia University in 1887. During his three years' tenure of office, Mr. Borden conducted a library training class, established the Central State Library and did other useful work which is now ably carried on by his successor Mr. Newton Dutt, one of the pioneers of the library movement in India.

The Library Department of Baroda comprises two sections, the Central Library and the Country Section. The former includes a free and open access Lending library, and a Reference library,

with a newspaper reading room, as well as a ladies' library and reading room, and a children's play-room. This play-room is one of the most interesting and original features of the Library; it is a large and airy hall, well furnished and decorated, and provided with English and Vernacular books and papers, together with a variety of indoor games, amusements and occupations, such as draughts, jigsaw puzzles, word-making and word-taking, mosaic-work designing, meccano, etc. The Central Library circulates more books than any other library in India and is perhaps the third largest in books; it has nearly 124,000 books; and last year circulated about 132,500 volumes. (These figures are inclusive of the Travelling Library Section). The Travelling Library Branch circulates books by means of travelling libraries. These libraries consist of boxes each holding from 15 to 30 books and are made strong enough to withstand hard wear. They are dispatched free of charge to any library, school or other institution in the State, even the freight both ways being borne by the Department. About 22,000 volumes were circulated in this manner last year.

The most important function of the Country Section is the subsidizing and control of the town and village libraries. As far back as 1906, His Highness commenced giving subsidies to the rural libraries. Four years later, on Mr. Borden's recommendation rules were laid down under which the Department has been running ever since. When a community has succeeded in collecting Rs. 100, Rs. 300 or Rs. 700—the sum depending on whether it is a village, an ordinary town or the chief town or the district—a similar sum is granted by the Library Department and another similar

sum by the District Board. In some cases the Municipal Board also gives contributions. If a library building is required the people have only to find one-third of the cost, the remainder being contributed in equal quotas by the Government and the District Board. Finally to provide a nucleus for a new village library, the local committee can purchase for Rs. 25 only, a collection of good Gujrati books worth Rs. 100 the rest of the money being found by the State.

The people have not been slow in taking advantage of these liberal facilities for self culture. Up to now, all the 45 towns and 818 of the villages have been provided with free libraries which can boast of an aggregated stock of 612,406 volumes and a gross circulation of 425,811 volumes amongst 79,406 readers. There are also 110 newspaper reading rooms. This is an encouraging record for 20 years' work. Moreover, no less than 119 libraries now possess buildings of their own. Rules are laid down for the proper management of these libraries. The libraries are visited by the Assistant curator, who also gathers groups of town and village librarians at convenient centres to give courses of study in library management, and to discuss with them various practical problems.

65. 64 per cent of the whole area of the State has now been provided with libraries and reading rooms. His Highness' Government are so convinced of the cultural and educational value of these institutions that they have enjoined the library authorities to establish a free library in each of the 418 villages which have schools but no libraries. A programme to this end has been drawn up, and will, it is hoped, be completed within four years.

A good example of a small but successfully run library is the library of Chalala, a village of some 3,000 souls, the Honorary Secretary of which is a school teacher. The circulation of books is pretty large and although the ladies do not visit the building, yet their needs are not forgotten, for books are sent to their houses through the head-mistress of the girls' school. On the walls of the library are found displayed all the interesting information and statistics about the village; number and extent of farms, number of ploughs and bullocks and the like. There has of late years sprung up a demand for separate ladies' and children's libraries; 8 of the former and 4 of the latter have already been instituted, besides 3 ladies' reading rooms and 5 children's reading rooms.

What has been done in Boroda, can surely be done also in all the States and Provinces of India, given leadership, money, organisation and the will to do things.

We are proud of the fact that the Andhra-Desa Library Association organized the first All-India Conference held at Madras in 1919. The first Andhra Library Conference was also organised by this body in 1914 at Bezwada when there were present 163 librarians. Since then, the Andhra Library movement has been making rapid progress towards establishing more libraries in Telugu speaking districts of both British India and the Indian States. The first Andhra Library and reading room was established in 1885 at Vizagapatam under the name of Saraswati Library, though amongst the existing Libraries the oldest is the one at Kumdavalli in Bhimavaram Taluq established in 1897. Next in chronological and technical importance is the Gowtami Library at

Rajahmundry founded by Mr. Nalam Krishna Rao in 1900. It is now the largest library in Andhra known as Gowtami Grandhalaya with nearly 10,000 books. In general, the period till 1914 is the period of reading rooms and social clubs. From 1914, the library movement in Andhra spread by leaps and bounds. In 1914, there were 289 Andhra libraries; by 1918, 475; and in 1930 the number of libraries rose to 600. The pioneers of this movement were Mr. S. V. Narasimha Sastri, now unhappily deceased, and Mr. Iyyanki Venkataramanaiah still a vigorous champion of the library movement. In 1916 the Second Libraries' Conference was organised with 180 libraries and a journal was started in the same year at Bezwada called the Grandhalaya Sarvaswam. In 1917 Mr. Venkataramanaiah attended the libraries Exhibition at Baroda and this gave them fresh ideas and an impetus to the movement.

During the period 1914—1920 a network of institutions called Village, Taluq, District and Central Library Associations were established with frequent meetings of the libraries conference. In 1920 an institution was started to prepare library workers and the journal flourished and the number of libraries rose to 600. Boy scout movement in parts of Andhra is co-ordinated with the library movement and was developed alongside. It must be noted however that the library movement in Andhra was a part of the larger movement for Andhra Revival.

It is for this reason also that even when the library movement declined temporarily between 1920—23 due to the no-tax campaign and other political upheavals, the library movement steadily progressed in the Andhra parts of the Nizam's Dominions. Irrelevant

as it may seem at first sight, let me say that it is necessary to divorce the library movement entirely from the political movement; if this is done the future of the library movement is assured. It must also be divorced from all religious and sectarian movements, if it is to prosper and make progress. On the other hand the libraries in all places must be social and academic centres where public lectures, recitals, concerts etc. should be held so that boys and girls, women and men may meet there daily to promote corporate life, knowledge and enlightenment. In villages, harikathas, kalakshepams, lectures on National Health and Social Development are already being conducted under the auspices of the village library. If this is done on a more systematic and organized scale, it will be a great instrument of adult education in this country. It must also be said to the credit of the Andhra Library movement that it is a powerful source of adult education which has successfully employed the recitals of puranas concerts and kalakshepams around the village library as agencies of culture. In addition, street dramas are organized, popular ballads sung, tournaments held, authors honoured, elocution contests organised all under the auspices of the village library. In a word all that conduces to the wellbeing of the body politic either has its origin in the library or finds it working there, though in no single library all these activities are undertaken. But the ideal is there. It has been placed before the country. For example the oldest living Andhra Library started in 1897 in the village of Kumudavalli in the West Godavari District by the late Mr. Ganjam Venkataratnam is still a model and an ideal for village libraries, though 35 years old.

It owns an airy building situated in the middle of the village. It has a juristic existence. Its volumes number some thousands and it houses the local co-operative society and it administers local communal properties. Under its auspices a free dispensary is conducted; a poor house is run; the local Prarthana Samaj hold their Bhajans there. In a word it is the centre from which proceed all the healthy communal activities of the village.

This is an age of organisation and nothing desirable or useful can be accomplished without an adequate and proper organization. Fortunately the All India Public Library Association formed in 1919, has met this need so far satisfactorily.

It has already done splendid work and the Library Journal of New York, one of the leading Journals in the library world pays it a compliment in the following terms for the work so far accomplished by the All India Public Library Association.

"Even before the seed sown by Mr. Borden in the fine opportunity given by the Geikwar of Baroda, for the development of Library system within his State, India has started on its own initiative a Public Library Movement which is having abundant fruitage. The All India Library Association, to some extent the outgrowth of the nationalist spirit in India, includes now district associations and a considerable number of Public Libraries which have the modern idea as their motive and the fulfilment of library possibilities as their goal. The addresses at the recent meeting of Andhra Desa Library Conference 1928 parallel very closely what might have been said at similar meetings in this country and that these were made by the natives of

India tells in itself a great story. Much of the Chinese development has been directly of American inspiration, while Japan has looked rather to itself for its development. India, with the exception of Mr. Borden's work in Baroda and that of Mr. Dickinson in organising the Punjab Libraries for the Indian Government, has not had from America such help as she has accorded to China, and its development is largely as in the case of Japan, of indigenous character. This is wholesome and it would be interesting to note in these three countries the lines of development both in parallel with and divergence from American methods and ideals."

The Modern Librarian of Lahore in its January issue announces that it is proposed to hold a separate All India Library Conference at Calcutta in September along with the annual meeting of the Imperial Library Council. It is also suggested that a draft by-laws of the proposed new Indian Library Association will be discussed and the council and officers of the new Association for 1933-34 elected. "Let me now sound a note of warning in this connection to the organisers of the proposed new association by appealing to them not to create a split in an infant movement like ours and retard its progress. It is easy enough to destroy an existing organisation built after strenuous and successful efforts but it is still more difficult to nourish a new association resting presumably on official patronage which may be out of touch with popular needs and popular pulse. An association of purely official character may be good enough for technical work such as cataloguing, library science and library administration,

but cannot and will not serve the needs of the nation in all its aspects. What is needed at the moment is a close co-operation between the existing All India Public Library Association which has already done such excellent work and the proposed new association. The two must form together a strong body not working in antagonism but working in close co-operation for the cause of the Library movement is great and there should be no room for dissensions of this kind if we have the welfare of the country at heart. We welcome the hearty co-operation of the organisers of the separate association to remedy any defects that may be found in our existing organisation and in that way lies progress". A strong United All India Library Association should be as representative and as comprehensive as possible. It should include all Provinces and States in India and should be truly national in its outlook. A public library system is an All India need and must be met by an All-India effort. There is danger of officialism in matters concerning All-India importance. We need, no doubt the help of provincial associations which will have to be affiliated to the National Association. It is unfortunate that the U. P. in spite of the 5 universities has got no provincial library association. It is high time that one is founded there as in Andhra, Madras, Bengal and the Punjab and I trust the All-India Library Association will immediately take on hand the work of organising provincial associations and making its programme more extensive and effective,

We should have a definite and rather an ambitious programme before us. Our programme should include, to begin with a regular publicity and propaganda work particularly in the direction of getting sympathy and support of our government and legislators on the one hand and the public on the other. We want to convince them that a public library system for the country is an urgent need. That will be our chief work for a few years to come. There are no doubt other items which we may include in our programme such as co-operation and co-ordination among existing libraries, creation of a national central library and regional libraries, copyright libraries, inter libraries loans, union catalogues, bibliographies of Indian literature, namely books, periodicals, manuscripts and other Publications, establishment of more provincial associations, a central school for training in librarianship, raising the status for the library profession, getting home and foreign publishers and booksellers to offer us advantageous terms in book purchases and the like. We shall attempt many of these tasks as we grow and gather strength. But important as they are, they are not so pressing as our principal task, the establishment of the public library system for the whole country to which we should direct all our initial strength and energy.

A novel method in popaganda is the institution of a Library Day throughout the country on which special efforts are made to demonstrate the value of libraries and to collect funds from the public, as is already done in the Baroda State. This is conducted on the same lines as Hospital Sunday in England.

What is urgently needed now is the enactment of some sort of legislation for the maintenance of public libraries on

the lines of *Public Libraries Acts* enforced in other countries. Amongst the eastern countries, China, Japan, and the Philippines have shown development in their library service only through their respective legislative enactments. India must not lag behind if her cultured children determine to have a net-work of free libraries by suitable legislation. The legislatures of all the provinces will do well to take up this task. India should also take some interest in the international library activities and it was a good step on the part of the All-India Library Association to have sent Mr. D. Trivikrama Rao as a fraternal delegate to England to attend The British Libraries' Conference held at Blackpool in 1928, whose paper on Indian Library Movement has since been published by them. An International Congress will be held in Chicago this year and it is up to this conference to send a delegate or suitable message that they may promote and encourage Bibliographical study and research on Oriental Literature.

The need of a regular Indian Library Journal is, also keenly felt and I hope the revival of the Indian Library Journal edited by Mr. D. T. Rao which did such useful work will be taken up as one of the practical conclusions of this Conference.

The people must rise superior to their circumstances and realise that more knowledge is their greatest need. They must be brought to love books; they must be taught to make books a part and parcel of their lives. The libraries would not then appear a mere luxury but a necessity of existence. A nation with such an ideal cannot perish. It is bound to live and grow and contribute to the welfare and happiness of mankind.

After the Presidential Address was over Mr. P. R. Janardanam Naidu, Librarian, Connemara Public Library, Madras delivered extempore a public lecture on the "Organisation and spread of Public Libraries"

Mr. Janardanam Naidu's Address

Then Mr. P. R. Janardanam Naidu, Librarian of Connemara Public Library Madras, delivered an address on "Organisation and spread of Public Libraries" in the course of which he stated that a survey of the history of the ancient civilisations revealed that arts and literature flourished most at a time when great libraries also were in existence. The greatness of Rome, and Pataliputra and their respective literatures in the ancient past was due to the knowledge that radiated from those great centres of learning which history revealed to have flourished. In the course of his travels through the ancient cities of Europe, the lecturer found relics of that mighty civilisation whose origin and later development could be traced to the existence of vast libraries. Even in our own country, great libraries seemed to have flourished at Takshasila and Nalanda in the heyday of Hindu civilisation when scholars from distant Japan and China thronged to those fountains of learning to quench their intellectual thirst. But the central fact about the greatness of these libraries was their sound organisation. In this connection said the lecturer, the Andrew Carnegie Trust furnished the most perfect model of library organisation. In our country according to the lecturer the vast endowments under the control of our temple trusts could profitably be diverted for the purpose of public library expansion and mass enlightenment. The lecturer dwelt at great length on some

aspects of rural library work in England such as farmers' libraries, miners' libraries and the like and drew pointed attention to the manner in which even factory labour could be trained to make proper use of the library as was done in the Cadbury's factory in England. The University, he said, was not the end of a man's education. Rather with the end of University training began one's real learning which one had to gather from the public libraries. In conclusion the lecturer emphasised once again on the need for men wellversed in the technique of library organisation who could handle and man a vast network of libraries throughout our continent,

TEA PARTY.

A tea party was arranged in the evening in honour of the delegates and the distinguished visitors, who were entertained by the Rajah Saheb of Challapalli at his residence. More than 300 guests were present at the function. After sumptuous refreshments and tea, the delegates engaged themselves in informal conversation as to the future work before them and exchanged their past experiences and views on the future. The pleasant party came to a close late in the evening.

LANTERN LECTURE.

Mr. M. Bapineedu M. Sc. and Member of the Syndicate of the Andhra

University delivered a very interesting address at 9 p. m. the same day in the conference Pandal with the aid of a Magic Lantern on the Development of Library Movement in Andhra Desa'' and the Importance of Adult Education''.

Second Day's Proceedings

The conference met again on 17th at 7 A. M. and the following papers were read by experienced educationists, Librarians, Social workers and research scholars:—

- (1) Education in Ancient India:
Mr. M. Ramarao, M. A. Librarian, Andhra Historical Research Society.
- (2) Rural Reconstruction and Library Service.
Mr. N. Satyanarayana, Director Rural Reconstruction Centre, and Joint Secretary Madras Provincial Co-operative Union.
- (3) Rural Library Service,
Mr. C.V. Rangam Sresti, Secretary, Hanuman Library, Narayanavaram
- (4) Technique of Libraries:
R. Janardhanam Naidu Esq. B. A; L. T; D. E. Librarian, Connemara Public Library, Madras.
- (5) Adult Education, and How it is an adjunct to the Public Library Movement.

- Mr. M. Bapineedu M. Sc. (Cornell).
- (6) Library Service for the labour class
N. S. Patro, Secretary Working Class Library.
- (7) Adult Education.
Mr. Sanivarapu Subbarao, Director, Rural Reconstruction Training School.
- (8) Development of Public Libraries in India.
B. S. Ranasubbier Library Assistant, Adyar Library.
- (9) Adult Education.
B. Seshagiri Rao Esq. M. A; P. H. D., M. S. A. President, Andhra Research University.
- (10) Baroda and Its Libraries.
V. C. Sekhar.
- (11) Selection of Books.
Ch. Ramarao B. A. B. L.
- 12 Libraries and Research work.
T. Rajagopal Rao B. A., Director, South Indian Research Institute.

Subjects Committee

The Subjects Committee met at 1-30 P. M. and after thorough discussion, drafted the Resolutions for presentation to the House.

Resolutions

In the afternoon, the conference again assembled and passed the following resolutions:—

This Conference appeals to the Provincial Legislatures of the Country the vote liberal grants to further and aid to

formation, and maintenance of free Public Libraries in all Provinces without imposing any conditions.

This Conference urges all the local Boards and Municipalities to institute and maintain Free Public Libraries throughout their areas.

This Conference appeals to the citizens throughout the Country to inaugurate district, taluk and village Library associations, for the furtherance of the cause of Public Library movement, by establishing and maintaining Free Public Libraries.

This Conference requests the management of the Public Libraries in the country, to inaugurate under their respective auspices, activities conducive to the popularisation of the Library movement and to the enlightenment of the public at large, literate as well as illiterate.

This Conference recommends the constitutions of Provincial organisations, on the basis of linguistic areas, to control and co-ordinate the work of the various Public Library Associations, and requests the Provincial Organisations so formed, to affiliate themselves to the All-India Public Library Association, and to take immediate steps to do propaganda work for the furtherance of the Public library movement.

Resolved that for the classification and compiling of books in Indian vernaculars and Indian classical languages this Conference appoints the following Committee with powers to co-opt to go into the question and suggest recommendations :—

- 1 S. Prabhat Kumar Mukerjee.
- 2 „ R. Janardanam Naidu,
B.A., L.T., D.E., (Oxon)
- 3 „ V. Shivram.
- 4 „ K. S. K. Swami,
B.A., LL. B., A.L.A.

- 5 „ T. C. Dutta.
- 6 „ D. T. Rao, Bar-at-law.
- 7 „ S. Ranganatham
- 8 „ A. Ramakrishnarao, B.A.,
Andhra University Librarian.
- 9 „ K. Ramarao, President, Secretary,
& Joint Secretaries,
ex-officio.

The Conference requests the Central and Provincial Governments to supply free of charge for Public Libraries and University Libraries, such of their publications as may be found useful to the general public, such as gazettes, Council reports, administration reports, bulletins on agriculture, sanitation, public health and hygiene.

This Conference requests the Central Legislature to amend Act XXI of 1860 (Societies Registration Act), so as to exempt Public Libraries and Reading Rooms from paying the fee of Rupees Fifty now payable for registration.

This Conference notes with satisfaction the initiative taken by certain Municipalities and Local Bodies in India in starting and assisting with grants, Public Libraries and Reading Rooms, and congratulates them for the lead they have given to others to follow; and it is further of opinion that a system of grant-in-aid covering two thirds of the expenditure to be borne in two moieties by the local governments and Local Boards or Municipalities respectively be introduced provided the remaining one third is found by the Library and that requisite legislative steps may be taken on hand by the Councils concerned.

This Conference resolves that the following panel of names be approved from which representation to the British Public Libraries Conference and to the International Congress of Libraries

at Chicago to be held this year may be effected.

1. Dr. V. S. Ram.
2. Mr. R. Janardanam Naidu.
3. Mr. I. V. Ramanaiah.
4. Mr. D. T. Rao, Bar-at-law.
5. Dr. Wali Mahomed.
6. Mr. Y. V. Chandrasekhara Iyah, Mysore.
7. Mr. Sridhar V. Naik.
8. Mr. P. Seshadri, (Ajmer Govt. College)
9. Mr. A. R. Wadia (Mysore University)
10. Dr. S. S. Nehru, M. A., Ph. D., I. C. S., Director of Reforms, U. P.

This Conference resolves that a Special Technical Committee be formed to apply the technique of Library Science to the furtherance of Library Administration and of the Library Movement in India with the following as members thereof with power to co-opt.

1. Dr. F. H. Gravely.
2. Mr. R. Janardanam Naidu.
3. Librarian, Lucknow University.
4. do do Andhra
5. do do Benares
6. do do Tanjore Public Library.
7. Mr. K. S. K. Swami.
8. Librarian, Bombay University
9. do Calcutta University.
10. Mr. Yazdani.
11. S. R. Ranganatham.
12. A. Ramakrishna Rao, B.A., Andhra University Library.
13. K. Ramarao, with President, Secretary and Joint Secretaries ex-officio.

This meeting of the 7th All India Libraries Conference places on record its deep appreciation of M. R. Ry., Rao Bahadur Mothey Gangarazu Zamindar Garu's magnificent gift of a building worth Rs. 50,000/- to the Young Men's Hindu Association, Ellore which is one

of the premier libraries of the Andhra Desa.

This Conference resolves that for the promotion of mass education greater importance be paid by libraries in the acquisition and distribution of books and periodicals in the vernaculars, special regard being had to Hindi which is fast becoming the common language for India.

This Conference notes with pleasure the great work of cataloging and indexing of Sanskrit words, and the classification of Indian Sciences, now being carried on at Shri Vidyapitha of Etawah founded by Shri Swami Brahma Natha Sidhasrama, and by the Ramakrishna Bhandarkar Institute and exhorts all the Libraries in India to co-operate with this Institution in this task, which is the foundation of a true cultural Renaissance in India.

The Conference resolves that the celebration of "Library Week" once a year is necessary and appeals to the public to propagate and give a new turn to the movement, by organising Saraswathi Puja, mass meetings, demonstrations, door to door collections to help local Libraries and such other programme as would contribute to the progress of the Library Movement in the country.

This Conference records with sorrow and expresses the great sense of loss suffered by the Indian Public Library Movement at the early demise of Suri Narasimha Sastri Garu, Bezwada and conveys to the bereaved family its condolences and authorises the secretary to communicate this resolution to the affected family.

Mr. Janardhanam Naidu, B. A. L. T. D.E. Librarian, Connemra Public Library Madras, before the end of the conference spoke in eulogistic terms about

the unqualified success the Conference had been. He paid a glowing tribute to the President and the Chairman of the Reception Committee who had submitted for the consideration of the workers of the Library Movement excellent constructive proposals which he hoped would be appreciated and carried forward. He laid stress on the non-controversial nature of the movement and hoped that the propagation of libraries will be taken on hand by Andhras who had so fully qualified themselves for it by reason of their past record. A spirit of Research and Historical Perspective would, he stated, help the diffusion and development of knowledge and the optimism that he was, he was sure that the redemption of illiteracy in this country would be an accomplished thing in the near future.

Mr. D. T. Rao on behalf of the Raja of Challapalle expressed to the delegates and visitors the sense of gratefulness by the Reception Committee and trusted that any shortcomings that were found within the measure of hospitality accorded by them would be condoned.

Dr. Shiv Ram in bringing the conference to a close referred to the magnitude of the task that had to be done, as was evident from the resolutions they had passed that day. He was hopeful of the future of the movement if the enthusiasm and co-operation that were displayed at the Conference were an index of the feelings that animated the workers in this enterprise. The fact that Bengal, Maharashtra, U. P., Bombay, Madras and the Indian States co-operated with the All India Public Library Association was a testimony to its strength and to the India-wide sway it has.

APPENDIX

Messages

T. C. Goswami Esq., Calcutta:—

"My best wishes will be with you. I have been connected in a small way with what is called the "Library Movement" in this part of the country, and I have always felt that the efforts that are being made in this direction throughout India will be of abiding benefit to our country. Wishing you all success,

Dewan Chand Sarma Esq. M. A.

Professor D.A.V. College, Lahore.

"I wish the conference success and wish it many years of useful service to the country. I need hardly say that the part played by the Library movement in the dissemination of knowledge among the masses, is very noteworthy and the organizers of this movement deserve the grateful support of every educated person."

D. W. Joshi Esq. Secretary, Maharashtra Library Association, Bombay:—

"I regret very much my non attendance. With impetus, the Library Movement with concerted organised endeavours, will benefit education through Libraries."

Kumara Manindra Deb Rai Mahasai Esq. M. L. C; President, All Bengal Library Association:—

"It would have given me great pleasure to attend the conference, had not some urgent previous engagements prevented me from doing so. However, I wish the conference every success.

My Bezwada friends took the leading part in the Library Movement of the country since its inception and I sincerely welcome the renewal of their activities. May God help them."

K. S. K. Swami Esq., B. A., L. L. B; A. L. A; Librarian Government Secretariat, Bombay:—

“My heart felt sympathies for the success of the conference”

S. Radhakrishnan, Esq. Vice-Chancellor, Andhra University, Waltair:—

“I am sorry I shall not be able to attend the meetings, but wish the function every success”

B. Seshagiri Rao Esq. M. A., Ph. D; M. S. A. President, Andhra University Vizianagaram City:—

“Wishing the conference every success”

B. S. Ramasubbier Esq., Library Assistant, Adyar Library, Madras.

“I beg to convey on behalf of the Adyar Library its best wishes to the Seventh All India Public Library Conference for success and achievement”

N. P. Saxena Esq., Honorary Secretary, Navjiwan Vachanalaya, Jubbulpore:—

“I whole heartedly wish you a brilliant success in your such laudable efforts.”

Dr. L. Sundaram, M. A; Ph. D:— “I am sure I am missing a great occasion. I would have felt it a privilege to take part in the Conference and contribute my little bit towards its success.

Salvage of the mass mind—this is what is necessary in Modern India. Conferences of this nature are sure to build up an informed nationalism in our country. I wish the conference every success”.

A. Shunmugam Mudaliar Esq., Secretary, The Ganesa Library, Washermen-

pat, Madras:—“I wish the Conference great success”.

Peri Sundaram Esq. Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce, Ceylon:—

“I know in the hands of my friend Mr. Trivikrama Rao and others who have been responsible for its growth during the last ten years, the Library Movement will grow from strength to strength and will carry knowledge right to the door of the peasant and the labourer, which as I understand it, is the primary purpose behind it. I wish all the Library organisations in this vast continent of India will lend their support to the Conference. I may assure the Conference, that Ceylon will watch the proceedings of your body with interest and would avail herself of any help that you can willingly offer for the advancement of Mass Education through Libraries”.

N. K. Srinivasa Iyengar Esq., Secretary, The Parishat Library and Reading Room, Emāneswaram, Ramanad District:—

“We are grateful to you for the determined work that the Agila India Library Association (All India Public Library Association) has done in the past and pray to God for the continuance of such work in the future. Wish the conference every success”.

K. Krishna Rao Esq. Hon. Secretary Young Men's Improvement Society, Hyderabad:—“Wishing the Conference every success”.

Mrs. A. Satyavati Devi, Member Taluq Board:—“May God help you in

making the Conference a success. All lovers of the Library Movement must not forget their special obligations to womankind in general. Neglecting any library facilities for women means

denying knowledge to them. It is the duty of Librarians to secure the greatest possible benefits for women and thus advance their position in the National life of the country.

All India Public Library Association

Registered under Act XXI of 1860, Established 1919.

BEZWADA.

LIST OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1933—34.

President:

V. S. Ram Esq. M.A.; Ph. D.; F. R. H. S.

Vice Presidents:

Sachchidananda Sinha Esq. Barrister-at-law (Bihar) (Editor Hindustan Review)

Kumara Manindra Deb Rai Mahasai Esq. (M. L. C.; President All Bengal Library Association) (Bengal)

N. C. Kelkar Esq. M.A., L.L.B., (Maharashtra) (Editor Maharashtra & Kesari)

K. L. Gauba Esq. Barrister-at-law, (Punjab)

Vaman R. Naik Esq. Jagirdar (Nizam's Dominions)

P. V. Ranganadha Iyer Esq. B.A., B.L., (Puddukkotah State)

A. R. Wadia Esq. B.A., Bar-at-law, (Mysore State) (Professor of Philosophy, The Mysore University.)

K. S. Venkataramani Esq. M. A., B. L. (Tamil Nadu)

B. Das Esq. Barrister-at-law. (Member Legislative Assembly) (Orissa)

B. Seetaramaraju Esq. Barrister-at-law (Andhra) Member Legislative Assembly

Ranawaka Esq. Advocate (Ceylon)

B. A. (Lond.)

General Secretary:

D. T. Rao Esq. Barrister-at-law.

Joint Secretaries.

Iyyanki Venkata Ramanayya Esq.

N. Saayanarayana Esq. Joint Secretary, Madras Provincial Co-operative Union.

A. Ranganatha Modaliar Esq. M. L. C.

Assistant Secretaries:

Susil Kumar Ghosh Esq. B. A. B. L. (Secretary All Bengal Library Association.)

D.W. Joshi Esq. (Secretary, Maharashtra Library Association.)

M. Hanumantha Rao Esq., High Court Vakil (Nizam's Dominions)

A. S. Muddukrishnayya Esq. (Puddukkotah State) (Secretary, Pudukkota Library Association)

R. Janardanam Naidu Esq. B. A.; L. T.; D. E. (Oxon) (Madras) Librarian, Connemara Public Library, Madras.

Radhey Raman Saksena Esq. M. A. L. L. B., D. L. Sc. (United Provinces) Librarian, Legislative Council Library.

K. B. Madhava Esq. M. A.; A. I. A. (Mysore State) Professor, Maharaja's College.

K. Punniiah Esq., Editor "The Sind Observer." (Sind).

A. Narayana Rao Esq. M. A. (Burma)
N. V. L. Narasimha Rao Esq. Barrister-at-law (Andhra) (Chairman, Guntur Municipality)

Delegate to The British Libraries Conference.

and
International Conference of
Libraries. Chicago.

S. S. Nehru Esq. M. A.; Ph. D.

All India Library Week

It will be remembered that a resolution was passed by the All India Public Library Conference at its Seventh Sessions at Bezwada during Easter this year, calling upon the Libraries in the country to celebrate the All India Library week, so that a huge effort may be made on a country wide scale to stimulate interest in the Library Movement and to aid in the formation of New Libraries. In accordance with it, a number of Bulletins were issued by the All India Public library Association, requesting the Libraries to celebrate the event in a fitting manner. A spe-

cial draft programme was submitted to it by The Andhra Desa Library Association which was sent out as a specimen programme to various libraries in India to be adopted with suitable modifications. The sample programme is published below. The response to our announcement has been extraordinarily encouraging, more than 500 Libraries having celebrated the week. The All India Public Library Association tenders its grateful sentiments to all those that have made the event the success that it has been.

Detailed Programme

In accordance with the Bulletin issued already, the All India Library Week will be celebrated all over the country from the 10th August to the 16th. A specimen programme suggested by Andhra Provincial Association is set forth below indicating the various ways in which each individual library will have to draw up its programme to suit local requirements, since provincial and sub-provincial conditions differ widely in the matter of languages, custom, tradition and communal proportions. The fact that the programme has more of Hindu ideology behind it need not deter the managements of libraries

to alter the same to meet particular conditions.

PROGRAMME

10th AUGUST—THURSDAY.

Morning:— Worship of Saraswathi, Goddess of Learning; Universal Prayer (i. e. Prayers by representatives of all religions; Procession with Bhajana Parties with banners and streamers containing mottoes showing the value of libraries to National culture and development. Decorating the libraries with special

illustrations and didactic sayings to bring home the need of libraries.

Noon:— Historical expositions through epic literature of all nations (Purana Kalakshepam). (Works to be selected by each library e. g. The Puranic lore, Islamic history, Jewish history and Ancient history etc.)

Evening:— “Need for the Public Library Movement in India”—A Public Lecture.

Night:— Reading books, newspapers and other literature to the poor by visiting their homes.

11th AUGUST—FRIDAY.

Morning:— Procession as on the 10th. Review of the previous year's work, collection of old dues of books and subscriptions, auditing of accounts etc.

Noon:— Literary Expositions.

Evening:— Public Lecture on ‘Methods of Cultural Development in Ancient India.’

Night:— Harikatha.

12th AUGUST—SATURDAY.

Morning: Procession as usual.

Collecting new books, increasing the finances, planning to build a local habitation for the library in order to stabilise the work of the library movement.

Noon: Literary Exposition.

Evening: Public Lecture on “Free Library as a permanent factor in the advancement of social life in Rural India.”

Night: Drama, Historical or Epic and Ballad singing.

13th AUGUST—SUNDAY.

Morning: Nagara Sankirtan.

Juvenile competitions under the auspices of the library and award of prizes to arouse interest among the children in the local library.

Noon: Literary expositions.

Evening: Public lecture on “Libraries in many lands including Indian States.”

Night: Ancient Indian Dramatic Talkies (తాళిబొమ్మలు)

14th AUGUST—MONDAY.

Morning: Procession as usual.

Visiting the leading men of the town and discussing with them methods of making the library more useful and widening its activities.

Noon: Literary expositions.

Evening: Lecture “Duty of the library towards women, children and other culturally deficient groups of populations.

Night: “Library Drama” like Health Drama etc. in order to bring home the value of library in National Progress.

15th AUGUST—TUESDAY.

Morning: Nagara Sankiratan.

Visiting the homes of the public and listing their requirements in the matter of library service.

Noon: Library exhibitions.

Evening: Exhibition of important libraries in the world and their work through display of Posters, books, pictures, portraits, magic lantern etc.

Night: Kolatam and Folk dances.

16th AUGUST—WEDNESDAY.

Morning:— Procession as usual.

Literary Dramatic and Music competitions open for children and award of prizes.

Noon:— Literary expositions.

Evening: Competition in indigenous Indian games and sports like wrestling, chedugudu, salt stripes etc.

Night:— Magic Lantern show and lecture.

In drawing up the programme of each library, the central idea should be to convey the importance of the library in the all round development of the village and the town. That the library is not merely a warehouse of books but that it is the main spring of the cultural life of the country in its manifold aspects, directing and regulating its expression and activity is too well known. The reaction of the library on the growth of literacy, advancement of knowledge, development of social consciousness and the emanation of a balanced political outlook is great and cannot be too lightly viewed. In the promotion of these virtues in the social polity, the part played and intended to be played by the library is extremely valuable. On the foundations of a thoroughly understood historical consciousness alone, the national structure needs to be built up and

this explains the reason why the ancient institutions of afternoon literary expositions. (Purana Kalakshepama and Harikathas), games and sport have been given a prominent place in the celebration of the Library week. While open to the modern influences of democratised western culture, the Indian Public Library movement seeks to preserve unpolluted the springs of Indian culture. The literature of the Hindu, of the Moslem, of the Parsee, and of the Sikh no less than of the Buddhist, Jain, the Jew and the Christian will be the treasure house from which the library-lover will draw his inspiration and faith. Similarly the living indigenous games of the Punjab, Bengal, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and the vast area of Hindi Rashtra will be fostered and developed under the aegis of the library movement. Thus will the finest expression of our national genius, in all its moods and historical presentation, be sought to be saved for our country. It is hoped that the libraries in India will participate in and celebrate this week with enthusiasm and fervor.

Bezawada, } (Sd). V. SHIVARAM,
1-8-1933. } M.A., Ph. D., F. R. H. S.,
President.



Madras Public Libraries Bill.

Explanatory Note to amendments.

The list of amendments proposed to the Madras Library Bill is numerically large. The purpose of the amendments is to create a machinery which would serve the interests of private libraries in addition to those of the libraries maintained or proposed to be maintained by state or Quasi-State bodies. It has also been felt that the agency of local boards for conducting library service efficiently is yet open to question on account of the petty and factious quarrels that have too often dominated the judgment of many a local self-governing institution. Besides this, it is evident that the bill has not taken note of Indian conditions of life, Indian customs, Indian traditions and Indian institutions but has bodily modelled itself on certain western types of Library legislation.

The library movement is one intended especially for the masses whose habitat is the rural locality and it is primarily this area that should be served. Any effort to reach this area must naturally imply the need for using the vernaculars for administration. The difficulties of language in relation to the Library Movement are so great that His Excellency Lord Stanley referred to them in his inaugural address to the Madras Library Association in the following terms :

“In this Presidency, we have a vast area, a population numbering some 42 millions and no less than four main vernaculars. The libraries of any conse-

quence in this Province are so few as to be for practical purposes inaccessible to great numbers of those who would like to use them and it cannot even be said that each main vernacular has one good library. I am aware that English is a convenient medium, but the indigenous culture of this country cannot be fully developed unless there are facilities for the study of the literature written in the various vernaculars. Your task is therefore all the more difficult for not only have you to provide libraries for this vast population which will contain Tamil books for the Tamils, Telugu books for the Telugus, Malayalam books for Malabar and Kanarese books for Kanarese-speaking people, perhaps Hindustani books also for those speaking Hindustani.”

It has therefore become imperative to constitute Library authorities on a linguistic basis and for this purpose, the Andhra Desa Libraries Association, the Kerala Libraries Association and Madras Library Association for the polylingual city of Madras—three bodies that have done great service to the cause and continue to do so—have been recognised as useful instruments for the operation of the Library scheme, while the Tamil and Kanarese Library authorities are to be inaugurated by the Provincial Library Committee. Circumstances being what they are in this province of vast distances and vaster illiteracy, the people must be made to

relearn the art of self-government through Library administration. Hence, the paramount necessity for democratising the machinery of Madras Library Bill. It is with this object that, while approving of the many details of the Bill, the general outline has been changed to a certain extent and the popular associations concerned with library movement taken advantage of. The hierarchy of administration has been maintained, from the Provincial Library Council down to the District Library Committee but their functions and powers have been widened so that the people's will might prevail and direct the course of future library service.

The Madras Library Bill, as published, suffers from many defects, chief among which is the little opportunity it provides for taking initiative in the expansion of libraries. Without the onus of responsibility, all movements, however well designed end in defective output and in lack of constructive results. Such defects have been sought to be remedied by these amendments. In the first place, the Provincial Library Committee has been invested with the duty of bringing into existence library authorities where such

do not exist. Similarly, the Library authorities have to look to the inauguration of the District Library Committees while their duties imposed upon them by the Act are to be carried out and annually reported to the Government for security and opinion.

As is often desired, the ultimate control is retained in the Government and with this safeguard on the one hand and a substantial measure of authority in Library management and service on the other, the amended bill will, it is believed, be greatly useful to the public of the Presidency. The purpose of these amendments is to so organise the Libraries in the Presidency that, at a future date—not remote—there may be the possibility of having a Department of Libraries, more or less on the model of the Co-operative Societies Department resulting in increased knowledge and broadened outlook for the 42 millions of this Presidency. In time to come, it will not be futile to hope that there will be a Minister for Libraries to control the thousands that will naturally come into existence if only the Bill, when it results in a statute, can be carried into operation with zeal and zest.



THE MADRAS PUBLIC LIBRARIES BILL No. XI OF 1933

*(Corrected according to the amendments proposed by
The All India Public Library Association)*

Whereas it is expedient to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a system of Public Libraries, and for the comprehensive development and organisation of rural and urban Library service, in the Presidency of Madras;

And whereas the previous sanction of the Governor-General has been obtained to the passing of this Act;

It is hereby enacted as follows :—

Chapter I.

PRELIMINARY.

Short Title.

1 This Act may be called THE MADRAS PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT, 193 .

Local Extent.

2. It shall extend to the whole of the Presidency of Madras.

Interpretation

3. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context:

Director.

1. "Director" means the Director of Public Libraries and

Public Library.

2. "Public Library" means a Library established or maintained under the provisions of this Act or the

Madras City Municipal Act, 1919, or the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, or the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, as amended from time to time; or a Library established and maintained by a local Library Association or by any other Public Body for the free use of the Public.

Library Authority

(3). A Library Authority means any of the following bodies :—

(a) The Andhra Desa Library Association

(b) The Madras Library Association

(c) The Kerala Library Association

(d) The Tamil Nadu Library Association

(e) The Kannada Library Association

Library Association

(4) A Library Association means any body referred to in Chapter XIV of this Act.

Chapter II.

CONTROL OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Appointment of Director.

The Librarian, Connemara Public Library, Madras, or such other officer as the local Governments may direct shall be the Director of Public Libraries.

Duties of Director.

5. Subject to the control of the Local Government, the Director shall superintend and direct all matters relating to Public Libraries and connected with the exercise of powers and performance of duties by local bodies under this Act.

Chapter III.

CONSTITUTION OF PROVINCIAL LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

6. (1) The Local Government shall constitute a Provincial Library Committee for the purpose of advising them on all such matters arising under this Act as they may refer to it unless otherwise provided for in this Act.

Membership.

(2). The Committee shall consist of the following members, namely :—

- (a) The Minister in charge of Education;
- (b) The Director;
- (c) Two persons elected by the Madras Legislative Council from amongst its members.
- (d) One person appointed by the Madras Library Association.
- (e) Two persons each appointed by the following bodies :—
 - (i) Andhra Desa Library Association.
 - (ii) Tamil Nadu Library Association.
- (f) One person each appointed by the following bodies :—
 - (i) Kerala Library Association.
 - (ii) Kannada Library Association.

President and Secretary.

(3). The Minister in charge of Education and the Director shall res-

pectively be the President and the Secretary of the Committee.

Term of Office.

(4). Members of the Committee other than *ex-officio* members shall hold office for three years from the date of their election or appointment as the case may be.

Chapter IV.

CONSTITUTION OF LOCAL LIBRARY AUTHORITY.

Local Library Authority.

7. (1) For the purpose of organising and administering Public Libraries there shall be a Library Authority for each one of the following areas :—

Its Constitution :

- (2). Such Authority shall be :
 - (a) for the city of Madras, The Madras Library Association.
 - (b) For the Andhra speaking Districts of Ganjam, Vizagapatam, East-Godavari, West Godavari, Guntur, Kistna, Nellore, Chittore, Anantapur, Kurul and Cuddapah, Andhra Desa Library Association.
 - (c) For the Kerala speaking area of North Malabar and South Malabar, the Kerala Library Association.
 - (d) For the Kannada speaking area of South Kanara and Bellary Districts, the Kannada Library Association; and
 - (e) For the Tamil speaking area of North Arcot, South Arcot, Coimbatore, Salem, East and West Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, Chingleput, Ramnad, Tirunelvely Districts, the Tamil Nadu Library Association.

(3). The Provincial Library Committee shall, where there are not

Associations to function as Library Authorities aforesaid, constitute the same within six months after the Act comes into operation:

Library Committee.

8. For the area of every Local Library Authority, there shall also be District Library Committees constituted in accordance with the scheme made under the provisions of this Act.

Submission of scheme by Library Authority.

9. (1) Any Library Authority shall, submit to the Local Government, a scheme setting forth the manner in which it proposes to constitute the District Library Committees for its area and to perform its duties and exercise its powers in relation to Public Libraries.

Terms of Scheme.

(2) Every scheme for the constitution of a District Library Committee shall, provide, that not less than two of its members shall be persons, who, in the opinion of the Library Authority, possess special qualifications for serving on the District Library Committee.

Special terms of a District Library Committee Scheme & Village Library Committee

(3) Every scheme submitted by a District Library Committee shall specify the number of villages or panchayats its library service is proposed to reach, any arrangements it has made with them for contribution to its library fund and other matters, if any, conducive to the efficiency of its rural library service. It may also provide for constituting Village Library Committees, wherever

necessary, for keeping itself in touch with the local requirements.

Publication of Scheme.

(4) Before submitting a scheme under this section, each Library Authority shall publish its proposals in such manner as it may consider suitable or as the Local Government may require, and shall consider any representations made to it by any person or body of persons in respect thereof.

Modification and replacement by new scheme.

(5) Any scheme under this section, may, with the approval of the Local Government, be modified or replaced by a new scheme and the provisions of sub-section (4) shall apply to such new scheme in like manner as they apply to an original scheme submitted under this section.

Chapter V.

APPROVAL OF SCHEME.

Approval of Scheme by Local Government.

10. (1) The Local Government may approve any scheme submitted to them under this act by a Library Authority, and thereupon it shall be the duty of the Library Authority to give effect to the scheme.

Return of Scheme.

(2) If the Local Government are of opinion that a scheme does not make adequate provision for all or any of the purposes to which the scheme relates or that the scheme requires modification for any other reason, they may return the same to the Library Authority with suggestions for its modification.

Chapter VI.

POWERS AND DUTIES OF DISTRICT LIBRARY COMMITTEES.

Reference to Library Committee.

11. (1) Matters relating to the performance of any duties or the exercise of any powers under this act by a Library Authority may, if necessary, be referred to the District Library Committee appointed for its area, and the Library Authority before performing any such duties or exercising any such powers, shall receive and consider such report.

Provided that in cases where in the opinion of a Library Authority, a matter is urgent, such reference or consideration shall not be necessary.

Provided further that where action has been taken by a Library Authority on the ground of urgency, without such reference or consideration, a report of the action taken and the circumstances which necessitated the taking of such action shall be placed before the District Library Committee at its next meeting.

Delegation to Library Committee.

(2) The Library Authority may delegate to the District Library Committee, subject to such restrictions or conditions as it may impose, any powers or duties under this Act.

Appointment of Sub-Committees.

12. A District Library Committee may, subject to any directions of the Local Library Authority, appoint such and so many sub-committees consisting either wholly or partly of members of the Committee, as it thinks fit.

Chapter VII.

CO-OPERATION AND CONSTITUTION OF REGIONAL COMMITTEE.

Arrangement for Co-operation.

13. (1) For the purpose of performing any duties or exercising any powers under this Act, a Library Authority may enter into such arrangements as it may think proper for co-operation with any other Library Authority or Authorities and any such arrangements may provide for the appointment of a Joint Committee, for the delegation to that Committee of any powers or duties of the Library Authorities for the contribution to be paid by each such Library Authority, and for any other matters which may be necessary for carrying out the arrangement.

Report to Director.

(2) A report of the arrangements made under sub-section (1) and of the constitution, powers and duties of the Joint Committee, if any, shall within fifteen days, be made to the Directors.

Constitution of Regional Committees.

14. (1) The Local Government may, on the application of two or more Library Authorities, by scheme provide for the constitution and establishment of a Regional Committee for their combined area, for such purposes as may be specified in the scheme as being purposes relating to matters of common necessity or convenient to be dealt with in relation to a group of Library Authorities.

Provided that no Library Authority shall be included in such scheme with-

out its consent and no Library Authority shall be obliged to continue in the scheme except in accordance with the provisions of the scheme to which it has consented.

Powers of Regional Committee.

(2) Where a Regional Committee has been constituted as above-mentioned, it shall exercise such of the powers and perform such of the duties of a Library Authority, as may be necessary for carrying out the purposes for which it was constituted.

Modification and replacement by new scheme.

(3) A scheme constituting a Regional Committee may, on the application of one or more of the Library Authorities concerned, be modified or replaced by a new scheme, and such scheme shall provide for dealing with any properties or liabilities of the Regional Committee, when the Regional Committee is discontinued.

Chapter VIII.

POWERS AND DUTIES OF LIBRARY AUTHORITY.

Vesting of Property.

15. All moveable and immoveable properties acquired or held for any Public Library, or for any of the purposes of this Act, shall be vested in the Library Authority or District Library Committee to whomsoever it may concern.

Powers and duties of Library Authority.

16. (1) The Library Authority or

the District Library Committee may for organising and administering its Public Libraries or for exercising any powers or performing any duties under this Act.

(a) Provide suitably-fitted buildings, books, periodicals, newspapers, maps, specimens of Art and Science, lantern slides, cinema reels, apparatus, other necessary materials and conveniences ;

(b) acquire, purchase or hire land or other properties, and erect, take down, rebuild, alter, repair and extend buildings and fit up, furnish and supply the same with the requisite furniture, fittings and conveniences ;

(c) accept any endowment for any purpose connected with this Act ;

(d) subject to the rules framed by the local Government in this behalf, appoint salaried officers and servants, punish and dismiss them ; and

(e) provide for lectures and such other activities as may be conducive to the carrying out of the purposes of this Act.

Discontinuance of Public Library and change of site.

(2) With the previous sanction of the Local Government, the Library Authority may discontinue any Public Library provided by it or change the site of any such institution.

Enquiry before scheme for removal of illiteracy among adults.

17. (1) Where, in the opinion of a Library Authority, the adult population within its area or any part or class thereof is unable by reason of illiteracy to take full advantage of the benefits of the Library service provided by it, it may cause an enquiry to be made by a Special Committee touching the condi-

tions as regards such illiteracy within the area, other schemes at work for the removal of the same, the funds, other than public funds, available for the purpose, and all other relevant matters.

Scheme for removal of illiteracy.

(2) The Library Authority shall then consider the report of the enquiry furnished by the Committee and submit a scheme to the Government setting forth any proposals as to the manner in which it intends to provide for the removal of such illiteracy and the funds it proposes to spend for the purpose.

Co-operation with other persons or bodies.

(3) Without prejudice to the powers above-mentioned, it shall be competent to a Library Authority, for the like purpose :—

(a) to associate with any person or body of persons willing to co-operate in the matter ; and

(b) to aid such person or body of persons by giving the use of such of its lands, buildings, furniture, apparatus, or other property, as may be necessary.

But save as provided in a scheme approved by the Local Government, it shall not expend moneys or make grants.

Chapter IX.

ADMISSION TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Admission to Public Libraries.

18. No charge shall be made for admission to a Public Library provided by a Library Authority or, in the case of a lending library, for the use thereof

by the inhabitants of the area of such Library Authority or District Library Committee but the Library Authority, if it thinks fit, may grant the use of a lending library to persons not being inhabitants of the area, either gratuitously or for payment.

Bye-laws by Local Library Authority.

19. Subject to the provisions of this Act, a Library Authority may make bye-laws,

(a) for regulating the use of the Public Libraries, under its control, the contents thereof and the admission of the public thereto ;

(b) for protecting the same and the furniture and contents thereof from injury, misuse or destruction ;

(c) for requiring any guarantee or security from any person using them and against the loss of or injury to any books or other articles ; and

(d) for enabling the officers and servants of the Library Authority to exclude or remove therefrom any person offending against the provisions of this Act or the Bye-laws.

Offences and Punishment.

20. (1) Any person

(i) who in a Public Library or other Institution maintained under this Act, to the annoyance or disturbance of any person using the same.

(a) behaves in a disorderly manner ; or

(b) uses violent, abusive, or obscene language ; or money may be applied, as approved by the Local Government.

(ii) who, after proper warning, persists in remaining therein beyond the hours fixed for closing ; shall be liable to be excluded or removed forthwith from the premises, and shall also be liable on conviction to a penalty not exceeding Rs. 10.

Trial of offence.

(2) An offence committed under the above sub-section shall be triable in the manner provided for summary trials by Chapter XXII of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898

Chapter X.

ACQUISITION AND ALIENATION OF LANDS.

Acquisition under Land Acquisition Act.

21. Any immoveable property required by a Library Authority or District Library Committee shall be deemed to be land needed for a public purpose within the meaning of Section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act of 1894, and may be acquired under that Act.

Alienation of land.

22. A Library Authority or District Library Committee may, with the approval of the Local Government, sell any lands or buildings vested in it, or exchange any such lands or buildings for any other lands or buildings and the money arising from the sale or received in part exchange, shall be used for the purchase of other lands or may be applied for any purposes for which capital

Chapter XI.

FINANCE.

23. Every Library Authority shall submit a scheme of Library Service for its area including the financial cost thereof to Local Government for its approval and sanction.

Library Fund.

24. (1) Every Library Authority and District Library Committee shall maintain a fund called the Library Fund from which its expenses shall be met.

(2) To this fund shall be credited,—

(a) amounts realised from endowments, if any ;

(b) any contributions received from other bodies, or persons ;

(c) any amounts that the Local Government may contribute towards the fund ; and

(d) any special grants that the Local Government may make for specific purposes, with or without conditions or limitations.

Power to borrow.

25. A Library Authority may with the sanction of the Local Government borrow money for any of the purposes under this Act on such security as the Local Government may approve.

Chapter XII.**ACCOUNTS, AUDIT, ETC.****Maintenance of accounts.**

26. (1) Separate accounts shall be kept of the receipts and expenditure of a Library Authority and District Library Committee and the same shall be audited like the other accounts of the local body constituting such Library Authority or District Library Committee. The audited statement and the report accompanying it shall be published in such manner as the Library Authority may determine or the Local Government may require.

Inspection of Accounts.

(2) All accounts maintained by a Library Authority, District Library Committee shall be open, at all reasonable hours, to inspection by any person concerned with the management thereof or by any duly authorised agent of the local Government within the area and he may make copies and extracts.

Chapter XIII.**INSPECTION, RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.****Inspection of Public Library.**

27. The Local Government may by their officers or by other organisation inspect any Public Library or other institution maintained by a Library Authority or District Library Committee for the purpose of satisfying themselves whether the purposes of this Act are being properly fulfilled.

Public Enquiry.

28. (1) It shall be competent to the Local Government to hold a public en-

quiry for the purpose of exercising any of their powers or of performing any of their duties under this Act.

Report to be furnished to Library Authority.

(2) A copy of the report of such enquiry shall be furnished to the Library Authority concerned before action is taken upon it.

Reports, Returns and information to Local Government.

29. A Library Authority or District Library Committee shall send such reports and returns and give such information to the Local Government as they may require.

Report by Local Government to Legislative Council.

30. The Local Government shall annually lay before the Legislative Council a report of their proceedings and the progress made by the various Library Authorities and District Library Committees in regard to the working of this Act during the preceding year.

Chapter XIV.**REGISTRATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.**

31. Any five or more persons of the age of twenty-one years or over, resident in any locality in the Province may form a Library Association, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a Public Library in that locality.

32. All Public Libraries shall be registered under this Act and no fee need be paid therefor by the Registrants. Every Library registered under this Act

or in accordance with the provisions of Act XXI of 1860 or of the Indian Trusts Act shall have the power to exercise a vote in the election of its representative to its District Library Committee.

33. From the date of registration, every Library Association shall have all the powers, rights and immunities vested by law in corporations and shall subject to the limitations set out under this Act and the regulations made thereunder have power to acquire, and hold and dispose of real and personal property for the purposes for which the association was constituted.

34. Any person resident in the locality in which the Association is formed may become a member thereof subject to the rules and regulations made by the Library Association or Library and to the payment of such fees and dues as such body may prescribe, but no member under the age of twenty-one shall be eligible to hold any office in or vote at meetings of such body.

Chapter XV.

RULES AND BYE-LAWS.

Power to make rules by Local Government.

35 (1) The Local Government may, by notification in the Fort St. George Gazette, make rules consistent with this Act for carrying into effect the purposes of this act.

Subject matter of rules.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide,

(a) for prescribing outlines of

the scheme to be submitted under Section 9 and the manner in which publicity shall be given to any proposed scheme;

(b) for the maintenance of the minutes of proceedings by Library Authorities or the District Library Committees and the inspection thereof;

(c) or the accounts to be maintained by the Library Authorities or the District Library Committees and where any duties or powers have been delegated to other committees by such bodies.

(d) for the auditing of the accounts,

(e) the conditions of service of the salaried officers and servants of the Library Authority or District Library Committee; and

(f) for all other matters which are to be dealt with by rules under this Act.

Power to make bye-laws.

36. (1) The Library Authority or the District Library Committee shall have power to make bye-laws, not inconsistent with this Act or the rules made thereunder, for the efficient exercise of its powers, the due fulfilment of its duties and the proper administration and execution of this Act.

Subject matter of bye-laws.

(2) Such bye-laws may provide,

(a) for the procedure and meetings of the Library Authority and the District Library Committee.

(b) for defining the powers and duties of the Library Committees that may be appointed by the Library Authorities or the District Library Committees.

**SEVENTH ALL-INDIA PUBLIC LIBRARY CONFERENCE,
BEZWADA.**

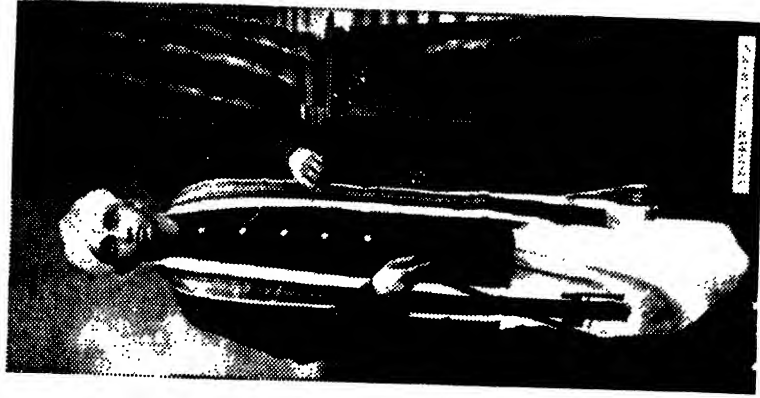
16th and 17th April, 1933.



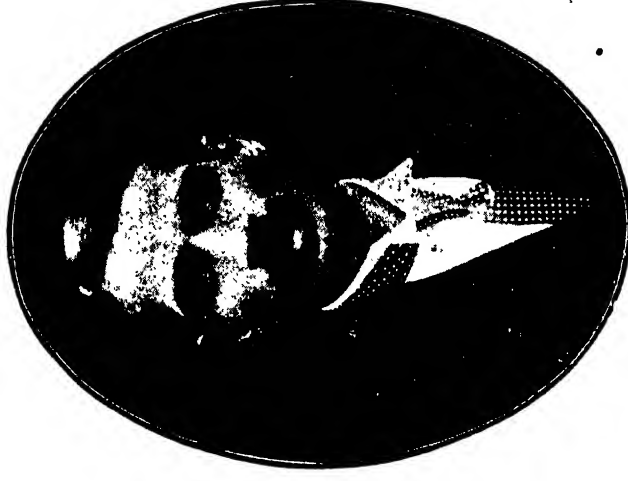
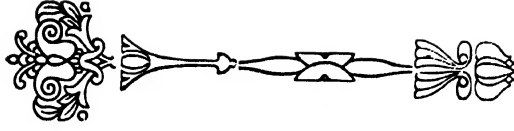
Sree Raja Varlagadda Sivarama Prasad Bahadur, Rajasaheb of Challapalli.
Chairman of The Reception Committee.

The Fifteenth Andhra Provincial Library Conference, Bezwada.

10th, 11th, 12th August, 1933.



Mr. Gopu RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Chairman of the Reception Committee



Mr. B SEETHARAMA RAJU, M. L. A.,
BARRISTER - AT - LAW,
President of the Conference.

(c) for the due performance by all its officers and servants of the duties assigned to them ; and

(d) for all other matters which have to be dealt with by bye-laws under this Act.

Submission of bye-laws to Local Government.

(3) A copy of the bye-laws made under this section shall be submitted, as early as possible, to the Local Government, who may suggest such alterations or amendments thereof, as they may think fit.

XV Andhra Desa Libraries' Conference

May 10th to 12th 1933, BEZWADA.

The fifteenth session of the Andhra Desa Libraries' Conference was held on the 10th of August at 8 A. M. in the Ram Mohan Free Library Hall which was elaborately decorated with arches of welcome and Library mottoes. Two hundred delegates from all over Andhra

Desa representing a large number of Libraries were present. Mr. B. Seetaramaraju, M. L. A., Barrister-at-law presided on the occasion, while Mr. N. V. L. Narasimharao M. A., L. L. B., Barrister-at-law, Chairman, Guntur Municipality opened it.

Welcome Address

By Mr. Gopu Ramachandra Rao.

The proceedings opened with a prayer, after which Mr. Gopu Ramachandra Rao, Chairman of the Reception Committee welcomed the delegates in the following terms:—

I have great pleasure in welcoming you, friends and delegates, to this historic and ancient city of Bezwada. Hallowed by the traditions of learning from time immemorial and sanctified by the waters of the river Krishna, our city feels a spontaneous sympathy towards the growth of knowledge. Centuries ago, when Buddhist culture was reigning supreme, Amaravati and Dharani Kota were the biggest Universities of the

day. Nay, even the small Viharas on Indra Kiladri Hill and the triple-storied magnificent Viharas at Undavalli on the opposite side of the Krishna stand even to this day bearing testimony to the cultural atmosphere pervading this locality. Even in modern times, the heritage has not been lost. More than two decades ago Bezwada witnessed the birth of a movement which, under the careful guidance and nourishment of its pioneer, the late lamented Mr. S. V. Narasimhasastry—peace be to his soul—and Mr. I. Venkata Ramanayya, has now grown into a mighty agency of educational reform and enlightenment.

Standing amidst these associations, both ancient and modern, I extend to you a hearty welcome.

An occasion like this, demands in the nature of things a survey, however cursory, of our achievements. It would be idle, I am aware, to speak of the vast accomplishments lying to the credit of the All India Public Library Association, but suffice it for the present purposes, to confine myself, to the growth of Libraries in Andhra Desa. It is an undisputed fact that the Modern Free Library had no place in the public life of our country thirty or forty years ago. But thanks to the labours of the Andhra youth, within less than three decades, of the inauguration of the Public Library Movement it was possible to organise about 1,600 libraries. It is a record of which any institution can be proud. Devoid of state aid, and relying purely on voluntary support, it is truly a miracle in the field of any national activity. It is gratifying that we are meeting to day under such encouraging and beneficent auspices.

More than ever, it is our incumbent duty to foster this movement, and study its implications from day to day so that our experience may be upto date and our knowledge abreast of the times. Libraries can never be self sufficient, and Libraries can never be self-satisfied. The demands of the age exert an unseen pressure on our resources and requirements. To feel them, to know them, and to fulfil them are duties that cannot be relegated, to the novice in Librarianship. The vast increase registered by the Libraries in Andhra Desa, call for equipped men, who will be in a position to direct the expansion of institutions in their charge, and unless the significance of the movement is understood, it will be, I am afraid, a

well nigh difficult task, to keep up continuity of work. In this connection, I cannot refrain from quoting a short extract from the valuable address of Mr. I. Venkata Ramanayya delivered at Itchapur two years ago:

"The ideal of the Library Movement is to give complete expression to the real man within, so as to enable him to give his best to others and to render his life noble and worth living. Such an ideal must be kept up before the workers of the movement, and they should be directed, to give the ideal, a concrete form and existence. Mere imitation does not endow the ideal with life. The ideal must be ensouled with particular national traditions, culture and environment. The integrity of the ideal cannot be sacrificed in pursuit of distant phantoms. The temple of the Hindus, has historically furnished us with an ubiquitous and cosmopolitan institution where the propagation of knowledge can be carried on with the greatest ease and advantage. Along with this, the national festivals, local folk-lore, indigenous literary and musical expositions, should be coordinated, and harnessed to the task of educational emancipation. Then alone can the ideal of the Library Movement be set to our local genius and given adequate expression in life."

We need not be deterred by the high level and immensity of work ahead of us. The ideal is truly great and inspiring. The previous record established by Andhras is a fountain of enthusiasm. Born to rise to the highest altitudes of sacrifice and service, the Andhras, can manage the Library Movement with success. But no public institution can grow to perfection through voluntary effort only when obligations rest on the State. Unhappily, the Library Movement in India, not to say of Andhra

Desa, has had to keep itself on voluntary endeavour. It is only recently that the Government seemed to have realised their responsibility. The Government of Madras, to take an instance, have been allotting paltry sums of ten thousand and twenty thousand Rupees to cover the requirements of 60 million people, in the matter of providing libraries. It does not appear that the Government have yet sufficiently understood their duty in this direction. It is absolutely necessary if the movement is to make rapid strides in its progress that the state should come to its help, by liberal grants directly and through other local agencies of Municipal administration.

I cannot help referring on the eve of this session to the Madras Library Bill introduced by Mr. Bashir Ahmed. The bill is inadequate, unsatisfactory and incomprehensive. There is much room for improvement and further examination of the question. The entrustment of the Act for purposes of administration to the tender mercies of Local Boards, the overlooking of the claims of voluntary Public Libraries, the complicated machinery of committees upon committees, the touch of favouritism evident in the composition of the committees and finally the provision for new taxation in these times of economic distress are certain features of the Bill which are open to objection. I earnestly hope Mr. Bashir Ahmed will

consult public opinion before proceeding with it any further.

One word more and I have done. Last, though not the least, I have to invite your attention to a matter of grave national self-respect, with great reluctance—I mean, Mr. Ranganatham's observations on the Andhra Library Movement in his book entitled "Five laws of Library Science". Almost all the Library Conferences that were held during the last two years and several other public bodies have protested against the unwarranted and untrue remarks, made by Mr. Ranganadham. He has done a great injustice to the Andhras, and I suggest to him that it is bare courtesy that he should in an unqualified manner withdraw the same and delete the offending passage from his book.

Gentlemen, the movement in which we are engaged is full of great potentialities. It calls for righteous, full hearted, self-less work. You who are gathered here have had an ample share in the constructive section of the Librarian's work and it would be futile for me to scheme any new avenue of policy. I am sure under the lead of Mr. N. V. L. Narasimharao and Mr. B. Sitaramaraju to whom I extend a warm welcome on behalf of the librarians and citizens of Bezawada, you will be able to draft a plan of work that would redound to the credit of us all concerned.

Opener's Speech

Mr. N. V. L. Narasimha Rao, Bar-at-law, Chairman
Municipal Council, Guntur.

Mr. N. V. L. Narasimharao, M. A., L.L.B., Barrister-at-law, Chairman, Guntur Municipality was next called upon to open the conference, and in doing so he stated as follows :—

“I am grateful to you for the honour you have done me in asking me to open this conference. It has been the custom for conferences of this kind in times of yore, in this country, to avail themselves of the benedictions of a Vedic scholar or a renowned pandit. But times have changed and the old order has given place to the new. The conventions of the West have been slowly adopted even by the slumbering East, and the position has been made difficult for me to resist the accepted codes of conference courtesies.

To my mind, the Library is the embodiment of all institutions dedicated to social service. Every activity, be it political or otherwise, can trace its origin to the enlightenment and knowledge derived from the use of Libraries. Very often in the history of civilisation, Libraries have played a part far beyond their local status and significance. Convention, research, adventure, and exploration have in nine cases out of ten had their inspiration from a little rural or urban Library. Apart from its utilitarian advantages, the Library has served as the centre of all National activities, and more so, in a country like ours—where the youth bubbling with enthusiasm and energy are participating in one movement or another.

The institution of a Library appears to my thinking to be an inseparable fac-

tor in civic life. The existence of a Library indicates the level of intelligence and education reached in a particular area. It is more or less, the educational barometer of the land. Unless we wish to be labelled as a C3 nation we cannot afford to lose sight of the implications of the Library Movement in relation to our self respect and literacy. In western countries, where the benefits of education have been shared by one and all, the Library is an essential unit in civic life. There is no village, but has a library of its own. I may even go to the length of saying there is no homestead in Britain where the matron or the paterfamilias does not show with a sense of pride the family Library. Is it not possible, I ask you friends, to bring our citizens also to the same level of pride in one's own books or learning? I for one do believe that if we only gird up our loins and carry on the ideals of the Library Movement till we reach every home in this wide continent of ours, it is fully within the range of possibility. The Libraries are the greatest treasure houses of knowledge. They are the reservoirs of enlightenment, from where the light pours out shedding refinement and culture, on all. Library Movement is capable of the greatest expansion. It is up to the Andhras, to work for its advancement with great zest and zeal. If it suffers at all, it is from lack of workers, for elastic as it is, it can give room to every one in its educative mission. Gentlemen, I once again thank you for the honour you have done me, and feel greatly delighted to open this conference.

• Presidential Address

By Mr. B. Seetaramaraju, Bar-at-law, M. L. A.

Mr. Bhupatiraju Seetaramaraju M. L. A., Barrister-at-law who was accorded a warm reception next delivered the presidential address :—

I rise to thank you for the honour you have done me in calling upon me to preside over the deliberations of this Conference and feel grateful to be privileged to associate myself with a nation-wide movement.

THE LIBRARY MOVEMENT.

This movement, as a means to extend the benefits of knowledge, to one and all in the country, transcending the age-long barriers of sex and distinctions of caste, towards its attainment, is in that nation-wide form a movement of recent origin, not only in this country but also in countries which have otherwise shown remarkable progress in the growth of democratic institutions. It is not, however, surprising that even in progressive Western Countries, the necessity to educate the masses and the possibilities of the libraries movement as an instrument of popular education of a universal character, is realized only in recent times. Notwithstanding the fact that democratic influences for several years had been brought to bear upon their Governments to discharge their primary duty to educate the masses, the barriers imposed by age long tradition as obstacles to learning between the sexes and the classes, persisted until comparatively recent times even in those countries. Even so late as in the 20th Century we have been hearing British politicians who would boast of their Parliament as the cradle

of democracy, seriously doubting the wisdom of educating the masses, when that question came up for discussion in that very house. On the Education Bill of 1918 Mr. H. A. L. Fisher in opposing that Bill, is reported to have said "How are the horses to be kept at work, the cows to be milked and the sheep to be tended? How is education going to help a man who has to spread manure on the field? But in spite of Mr. Fisher and others of his way of thinking, if the movement had at last taken root in Great Britain and shown growth, the filip to the idea appears to have come across the Atlantic with the Carnegie Trust Funds to stimulate its growth in Great Britain.

When that was the condition of Great Britain in whose hands the destiny of this country is being moulded for the last two centuries, it is not strange that a movement which aims to bring knowledge and enlightenment to every cottage door in this land of illiterate pheasants, with a tradition that learning is for the privileged few, must necessarily be slow to take root.

The problems that faced the world after the Great European War brought with them the realization that every human being is an economic asset to his country whose salvation depends upon the equipment with which he is armed to maintain himself and the nation in the international struggle for existence in the world competition. Consequently as a means to that end, filip is given to the idea of spreading knowledge to the masses to fit them for the struggle and the library movement with its varied forms of activities

has been showing rapid progress in practically every civilized country under State patronage and guidance. A study of the progress of the movement in the various countries would show, from the strenuous efforts which are made to extend the use of books to all classes who can make use of them, to promote knowledge by various means among those who are unable to read for themselves, by means of posters, plays and the like and the schemes undertaken to effectively carry out the varied purposes for which the movement stands, that the whole movement was treated as one of first-rate national importance.

In our own country when a broad-based national awakening was manifesting itself, a movement of this character could not but impress those who have been guiding the nation-building activities of the country. They agreed with Lenin when he said "Unless the masses are enlightened, a rigorous heightening of their economic welfare is impossible, co-operation is impossible and a genuine political life is impossible." Therefore the library movement which aims to bring knowledge and enlightenment to all classes of people and to all places in the country, immediately found favour with them. Various were the attempts made throughout the whole country to promote its growth. Nowhere in British India was the movement so enthusiastically welcomed and eagerly promoted as it was in the Andhra-Desa. The remarkable growth of Andhra literature during this period coupled with the enthusiasm to spread this movement showed great promise. It had everything in its favour to attract public attention and co-operation. The venerable pandit and the ignorant farmer were alike attracted. But the real

work of promoting it has largely fallen on the shoulders of our young men and the progress would have been much greater than what it is now if some of our workers had not withdrawn from this sphere owing to political exigencies and demands. We regret their absence from this field of activity and what little the movement had suffered from their failure to co-operate has, I am sure, been compensated by an intense desire created in men and women of Andhra-Desa to help forward the work of the Library Movement. The springs of action are unpolluted and the fact that I am to-day presiding over the 15th Session of the Library Conference in Andhra-Desa bears ample testimony to the vitality of the movement and the perseverance of the Andhras.

While co-ordination of activities of a nation-wide character are desirable and to a certain extent essential, in an atmosphere where all kinds of public activities are looked upon with suspicion by those in power, it is prudent to separate a movement of this kind from the activities of those who are engaged in direct political action, in order to provide no excuse to strangle it. I am even inclined to go to the length of suggesting that it is essential to enlist the sympathy and secure the co-operation of the Ministry in the Provinces and the Local Self-Governing bodies under them, without whose aid it is difficult to expect the movement of this magnitude to make satisfactory progress.

RURAL LIBRARY SERVICE.

The extent to which the financial and legislative aid of the state is to be secured and the co-operation of the Local Bodies necessary to promote the movement, can be realized when we realize equally

well the magnitude of the task. The foundations of the country's prosperity rest on the homes and fields of the cultivator who is now illiterate and uncultured; The cultivators constitute the bulk of the nation and form its mainstay. The RURAL LIBRARY PROBLEM has consequently become the most vital problem in the country. Apart from the general knowledge in matters relating to Public Health, Religion and Sociology, the need for knowledge in matters of vital importance to the cultivator such as improved methods of production and marketing, the stimulation of new ideas and the constant provision of instruction in such ideas, have become the most vital and essential portion of the activities of the movement in this country. In the matter of finding ways and means to bring knowledge to the poverty stricken illiterate masses sunk in depths of superstition and misery, a study of the movement in the progressive and industrialized countries will not be of much use to us. We have to turn to countries where the conditions of the masses are similar to our own and examine the ways and means found profitable in those countries to carry knowledge to them. In China and Russia, cultivators are more than 80% of the population. They are poor, illiterate and uncultured like our own peasants. A mere provision to extend the use of books or create an interest in them could not have been of much use to the masses who are unable to make use of them. I was very much impressed when I read of the methods pursued in Soviet Russia to bring knowledge and enlightenment to one and all in that land of illiterate masses. Under the direction of the State, a net work of cottage Libraries and cultural centres were established throughout the length and breadth of that vast country. Popu-

lar education is being carried through these centres. The use of suitable books is extended with the aid of itinerating library service, to those who can make use of them; while to those who are illiterate and unable to make use of them, education is being carried by means of posters, illustrated leaflets, dramatic performances, tableaux and propaganda, on all subjects likely to be useful to them. Posters on the use of farm machinery, selection of seed, methods of cultivation, on diseases and their prevention; and plays and tableaux familiar to our rural population as *Bhagavatams* and *Bommatalas* not only to carry religious and literary enlightenment but also to give the weekly news of the world, are a few of the various methods employed in that country under the auspices of this library movement. It is the duty of these library centres, not only to distribute books, magazines and posters but to organize all the varied forms of activities to promote knowledge and create in them a desire to learn. They even undertake to read for those who cannot read for themselves and organize periodical lectures and discourses on all vital subjects.

When we talk of the library movement for this country, we mean and we must necessarily mean all those varied activities. To the learned pandit or the literate few, the movement may only disclose the possibilities of the revival and extended use of Andhra Literature, the unearthing of buried master-pieces, and the encouragement of vernacularization of books on current thought. However useful and encouraging such activities can be, the library movement in its essence is nothing short of an attempt at a nation-wide mass education with all the varied forms necessary for that purpose.

STATE AID.

The magnitude of the task in a country like ours is such that however much individuals and associations, may labour with men and money, the task cannot satisfactorily be accomplished without the financial and legislative aid of the state. In several countries the movement is taken as auxiliary to compulsory primary education and the Governments of those countries are directing the activities with grants-in-aid and legislation. Nearer home we find, in the Indian State of Baroda, the Gaekwar's Government have coupled the library movement with compulsory education and the co-operation of the State, yielded happy results. British Indian Government cannot lag behind. Whenever Churchillian Die-hards are so solicitous for the welfare of the masses, neither the Government of India nor the Provincial Governments can deny their obligations to educate the masses. Financial stringency cannot be pleaded when large sums are found by the State for enterprises of doubtful value. When colossal sums are spent on the army for the avowed object of securing peace and protection to the people, it cannot be said that, for their education, money cannot be found. They are spending to a certain extent money towards primary education. The money so spent is running into crores of rupees every year. They have not realized as yet that all that money is wasted. A little reflection will show how it is being wasted. A boy who receives primary education for 5 or 6 years, gains at the most a little knowledge to read and write. When he leaves the School, the little he learnt at school for want of sustenance is gradually lost to him and he relapses into illiteracy before he is 16

years old. At a time when he enters life, he is no better equipped than when he entered the primary school. Thus all these vast sums of money spent on elementary education by the State are running into waste for want of institutions to preserve and promote the knowledge so imparted. Experiences of other countries show that the library movement with all the varied activities I have already enumerated, secures that end.

CO-OPERATION OF LOCAL BODIES.

We have a net work of Local Bodies spread all over-bodies which are entrusted with the task of imparting primary education to the masses and managing elementary educational institutions. If the library movement is coupled with the elementary education under a well organized and carefully thought over scheme not making it part of or subordinate to local bodies, effective help can be rendered by these institutions to promote the growth of this movement. They are the best medium through which the State can render its aid, and the inspecting and health staff can co-operate. There are the village school libraries under their management which can be offered to the public as nucleus to the library scheme. It appears that in the province of Punjab the village libraries of Local Board schools are thrown open to the public of the localities under the auspices of the library movement. In our own Province I am given to understand that District Library Schemes have been already adopted by two district boards. But I am inclined to favour Taluk schemes and Taluk Headquarters as centres of distribution. In this land of distances

any area larger than a Revenue Taluk is likely to present great difficulties for service. But the co-ordination of activities can better be centralized at District Headquarters than at Taluk Centres. The District Boards are directly in touch with the Ministry and the Government and have greater resources at their disposal, to operate itinerating schemes, undertake attractive propaganda and provide at its headquarters a big reservoir of supplies to feed the rural service and co-ordinate the work of Taluk and Panchayat Centres. Its resources will enable a well qualified staff to be engaged, and specialize in the study of the needs of the rural areas better. Its status and central position in the District will enable her to be in touch with the leaders of public life in the District and with their co-operation will be in a position to mobilize public support and co-operation to the movement. District and Taluk schemes are long over due and I hope well thought over and articulate schemes will be promoted. These are suggestions which are necessarily temporary and tentative in their nature; for in a Federal India with autonomous provinces, the mode of administration, the immoveable strength of the ministry and finally the composition and creation of new departments are bound to change. Departmental activity can be aroused now while legislation will have to be deferred until the inauguration of the Reforms.

URBAN SCHEME.

The library movement is not confined to rural uplift. It has to cater for the urban population as well whose demands are necessarily more varied and more taxing to the resources, skill and imagina-

tion of those who direct the movement. As an instrument of universal education the Urban scheme does not materially differ from the Rural Scheme. It has to provide popular education in the same way and look to the State and the Municipal authorities for co-operation. When an Urban area is also a centre for rural distribution, it has to function in a dual capacity. It has to serve for its own needs and also as reservoirs of supply to Rural areas, for which purpose it has to be equipped with plentiful supplies and qualified staff. In its modern conception the selection of a qualified library staff is considered a very important part of the scheme. Much emphasis is laid on the qualifications necessary to be possessed by the librarian of a well-equipped institution or a distributing centre. Modern theory is that the usefulness of an institution is measured in terms of the qualifications of the librarian in whose ability to understand requirements and guide the distribution the success of an institution is said to depend.

CONCLUSION.

For the co-ordination of all these activities, urban and rural, the watchful guidance of the Provincial Libraries Association is constantly needed both by the City and the District Organizations. The Libraries Association stands for the public; on its organized efforts and sustained interest the success of the movement depends. Periodical Conferences under its auspices are being organized to take stock of the progress so far made and find fresh ways and means to promote the movement till the goal is reached. I do not propose to stand any longer in the way of the good work they have set before themselves.

Formation of Sub-committees

After the Presidential address was over, two Sub Committees of Library Experts were appointed

(1) to report upon the Madras Library Bill

(2) to draft a scheme of training for the Librarianship, and submit the same to the conference. With this, the morning session came to a close.

Evening Session

After the meeting of the Subjects Committee was over, the conference met again in the evening at 3-30 P. M. when Mr. Jagannatha Rao, Secretary S. K. M. Library, Tenali, spoke on "Peculiar experiences in the manage-

ment of Libraries", Mrs. K. Samuel, Librarian, Queen Mary's College, Madras on "The utility of the Public Library", and Mr. K. Narasimharaju, Rural Reconstruction Supervisor on "Village Libraries and their problems."

Report of the Sub-committees

Then the two Sub Committees formed in the forenoon submitted their reports to the conference, for consider-

ation. The reports were accepted by the conference, after which the following Resolutions were passed.

Resolutions

1. This conference records its sense of sorrow at the premature demise of the Pioneer of the Library Movement Brahmasree Suri Narasimha Sastri garu, and conveys its condolences, and sympathy to the members of the bereaved family; and further requests the libraries in Andhra Desa to decorate their institutions with Mr. Sastri's portrait.

It further resolves that in memory of the great services rendered by Mr. Sastri "The History of the Library Movement in Andhra Desa" be prepared and published.

2. This conference resolves that the Library week should be celebrated in Andhra Desa during Dussera by arranging "Saraswati" Puja, Library collections and educative lectures.

3. This conference requests the Government to sanction grants even to unregistered Libraries similar to what they did in 1926.

4. This conference requests the Government to exempt the libraries from paying the fee of Rs. 50 for purposes of registration under Act XXI of 1860.

5. This conference requests the Government to extend the time for applying Library Grants to the 31st of October 1933.

6. This conference requests the District Boards to allot a certain portion of their Village Development Fund, to the improvement of Libraries within their area.

7. This conference appeals to the District, Taluq and Panchayat Boards and Municipalities to extend their sym-

pathy and financial support to Libraries within their area.

8. This conference resolves that it is most undesirable to start a rival Library Association when the All India Public Library Association has been carrying on the work successfully for the last fourteen years.

9. Whereas the economic depression prevailing in the country does not justify new taxation, and whereas the new reforms now on the anvil are expected to give greater facilities for legislation in the direction of promoting the growth and usefulness of Libraries—this conference is of opinion that the Madras Library Bill which in its nature, scope, and framing is extremely defective, should be withdrawn. It is further resolved that the Report of the "Madras Library Bill Sub Committee be published.

10. This conference resolves that in the interests of Andhra Literature and its development a separate Andhra Province is necessary, and that the annexation of Berhampore to Orissa Province is unjustified and fraught with grave dangers to the cultural integrity of the Andhra country.

11. This conference strongly deprecates the observations of Mr. Ranganathan in his book entitled "The Five

laws of Library Science "published by The Madras Library Association, to wit, "we see a few decaying remnants of a bumper crop of Libraries that shot forth at the close of the last decade in the land of the Andhras, but soon got strangled partly as a result of the vicissitudes of political movement, with which they got intertwined" and protests against the untruth and calumny contained in the above remarks and requests the 'Madras Library Association to delete this offending passage from its publication.

12. Resolved that the Report of the "Librarianship Sub Committee" be accepted and that a sub committee consisting of the following be entrusted to carrying out the recommendations contained therein:—

1. Mr. R. Janardanam Naidu, B.A., L. T. D. E. (Oxon), Librarian, Connamara Public Library, Madras.

2. Mrs. K. Samuel, Librarian, Queen Mary's College, Madras.

3. Mr. K. Ramarao, B. A. L. T. Head Master, Hindu High School, Bezawada.

4. Mr. P. Rajasekharam, B. A. B. Sc.

5. Mr. I. Venkata Ramanayya.

The proceedings for the day then came to a close.

Second Day's Sessions

The conference again met on 11th morning at 8-30 A. M. when Mrs. A. Sitamma, delivered a lecture on "My Experience in the Library Movement", Mrs. B. Seetabayamma, Secretary, Indian Women's Association on "The Utility of the Library in the Home" and Mr. P. Rajasekharam, B. A., B. Sc. on "The usefulness of Library Science in

the efficiency of the Library Management"

Mr. Yatagiri Lakshmi Venkata Rama and Mr. S. Subbarao spoke on the various methods of propagating Adult Education.

With a vote of thanks to the President and delegates, the conference came to a close.

The Silver Jubilee Celebrations OF

The Andhra Library Movement

BEZWADA, 11th & 12th August, 1933.

The Silver Jubilee Celebrations commenced on the 11th of August in the Ram Mohan Free Library Hall, with Mr. Ch. Narasimharao, the veteran Library worker of Guntur District in the chair.

A large number of field workers whose services ranged over a period of

twenty to forty years was present.

The proceedings began with the welcome address read by Mr. P. Nagabhushanam, on behalf of Mr. T. Jagannadham M. A.; B. L., Chairman of the Reception Committee, on account of his unavoidable absence.

Welcome Address

By Mr. T. Jagannadham M. A., B. L.

I feel greatly delighted to extend to you a warm welcome on behalf of the Reception Committee of the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Andhra Library Movement. It is now within the memory of all of us that the first seeds of the Library Movement were sown in this land of ours and how from day to day and year to year the plant thrived and bore fruits which we are now witnessing. You will permit me in this connection to make a reference to the attempts made by the people to increase the facilities for rendering the country more literate. The manufacture of Telugu printing type in 1825 marks the first milestone in making knowledge more easily available to the masses. Then came the real Library Movement with the starting of Reading Rooms at Vizagapatam, Pulivendla, Ongole, Vizianagaram, Kumudavalli, and Undi in the 19th century, and at Rajahmundry, Bezwada and Hyderabad

in the earlies of this century. Each one of the above localities possesses now an institution which has made a name for itself; and amongst them may be mentioned the Saraswati Nilayam, Nowroji Club, Veerasalinga Kavi Library and Gowtami Library.

With the growth of the Libraries the need for a coordinating organisation, became increasingly felt and the first Libraries Conference met at Bezwada under the inspiring guidance of that great pioneer of the Library Movement in British India the late Suri Venkata Narasimha Sastri and of the blind Poet laureate of Andhra Desa, Chilakamarti Lakshmi Narasimham Garu. The services rendered to the cause since the eventful year of 1914, are remarkable and but for the progress made by Andhra Desa, it would not have been possible for the All India Public Library Movement to have come into existence and given birth to its daughter

institutions in Bengal, Maharastra, Punjab, Puddukkotah, and other provinces. To these unostentatious servants in the field of Library activity and to the many other friends who have cooperated with them like Messrs. Goparaju Brahmanandam, Velamuri Gopalakrishnayya, Iyyanki Venkata Ramanayya, Nalam Krishna Rao, Titti Palaramayya, Potnuri Swami Babu, Marepalli Rama, Krishna Sastri, Prabhala Lakshmi Narasimham, Maganti Bapineedu, Suri Venkatanarasimha Sastri, Nadimpalli Venkata Lakshmi Narasimharao, Andhra Ratna D. Gopalakrishnayya, Ponaka Pattabhiramareddi, Addanki Satyanarayana Sarma, Belgam Ramadas naidu, C. V. Rangam Sresti, Buduru Ramanujulu Reddi, Adivi Sankara Rao, G. Harisarvottamarao, Desoddharaka K. Nageswara Rao, A. Kaleswara Rao, Vavilla Venkateswara Sastri, Arekapudi Ramasastri, Duggirala Venkata Subbiah, Madapati Hanumantha Rao, Pingala Venkatrama Reddi, Sree Raja Nayani Venkata Rangarao Bahadur, Aduri Seetamma, Balantrapu Seshamma, and Turlapati Sanyasamma, Mosalakanti Rajabayamma and Uppala Narayanamba, I take this opportunity of paying my humble tribute of respect and admiration. And were it not for their labours of love, the 169 libraries of 1914 or the one thousand libraries of 1933 would not have been within the ambit of actuality. The first Librarians Conference of 1914 had increased, as years passed by, its scope and activity, till ultimately for all Library workers, the institution had become a prime necessity rather than an occasion for part time effort or relaxation.

Friends, the progress, as I submitted to you, has been steady and strong, but all public activities have to weather the storm of ill-informed opposition and

meaningless criticism. With an apology beforehand to those that might question my propriety of traversing into a realm which is not so intimately connected with the object of the present gathering, I desire to lay before you, my firm opinion that Mr. S. R. Ranganathan in his "Five Laws of Library Science" had expressed himself in a most unwarranted manner, that the number of Libraries in Andhra was declining and that the few existing ones were in a decaying condition. This statement cannot go unchallenged. I ask Mr. Ranganathan to state whether the constitution of 800 Libraries in the course of 19 years is a sign of weakness or strength for the Andhra Library Movement. I further ask him to state clearly whether in making such an assertion, it was not his purpose to decry Andhras in general and Andhra Library Movement in particular and thus show off the superiority of the Tamils. Whatever may be his intentions, he has made a mischievous statement in which any responsible public man should not take pride. Any useful human institution cannot be reared on *sectional jealousies and racial prejudices*. The beginnings of such vituperation, envy and rancour carry the nemesis with them, and let me advise Mr. Ranganathan that neither he nor his association would grow an inch higher in the level of public estimation by indiscreet and untrue statements as those that he had vouchsafed to the public in his otherwise excellent publication. For our part, and on behalf of those who are working in the Andhra Desa Library Movement, I desire to express frankly and honestly that it is necessary to have a mutual reverence and love for the cause, as the foundations on which the fabric of

Library Movement in India has to be erected, and that our co-operation and assistance for the promotion of this vast and potential movement are always there in spite of any amount of mischief and animadversion by interested critics. Is it then too much to hope that Mr. Ranganatham as an honest Library worker, and the thorough gentleman that he is, will embrace the earliest opportunity to delete the offending passage from his book, which has been condemned times out of number by public bodies in Andhra Desa during the last two years? Honest confessions cement friendships more than obstinate misunderstandings, and no one, I dare say, can appreciate the truth of this more than Mr. Ranganathan.

We have met gentlemen, today to record our appreciation of the services rendered by our Co-workers. They have most loyally and faithfully participated in a movement that promises to change the values of cultures and civilisations. Each Library is a reservoir of knowledge, which needs only to be tapped to be known. Their use in a country like ours is more for the village, than for the town which is frequently served by institutions resting on voluntary endeavour or state aid. The village, it is too well known, does not occupy in the eyes of the Government or of the public, the same prominence and attention, which urban localities get. It is therefore incumbent upon us,

to carry the activity into the home of the villager and to press upon the Government these schemes, as would help forward the consummation of the farreaching ideal that animates the Library Movement. The pittance of a grant of Rs. 20,000 has barely assisted the cause. Even the Library Bill which is on the anvil of the Legislature, will not sufficiently help the formation and progress of Libraries, unless materially altered. These problems are enough to baffle the field worker but I hope out of all this furious thinking and activity there will arise at least a definite conception to recognise the need of more and more Libraries in our country. While the state will move, as is its wont, slowly, the Local Boards which are meant to be self governing will certainly perform their fundamental and elementary functions, if they can make larger grants for the maintenance of Libraries, and I have every hope that the Raja Sahab of Challapalli, as the President of the District Board of Kistna District will, by practical example, show the way for other Boards and Municipalities to follow.

I thank you friends and co-workers for having kindly responded to our invitation and extend to you on behalf of the Reception Committee our most heartfelt welcome. No doubt there will be certain defects and shortcomings but I am sure with your characteristic indulgence, you would overlook them.

Messages

The messages received from distinguished persons were then read by the Secretary of the Reception Committees. Amongst them the following are a few:—

Newton Mohan Dutt Esq., Curator
of State Libraries Baroda:—

Regret inability to attend the conference; but wish it every success.

x x x x x

Diwan Chand Sharma, M. A. Wishing the conference every
 Professor, D. A. V. College, success".
 Lahore:—

I am much obliged to you for your kind invitation to attend the 15th session of the Conference of Andhra Provincial Libraries as well as to participate in the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Public Library Movement in Andhra Desa. I, however, regret to say that owing to a previous engagement I shall have to deny myself the pleasure of participating in your festive and literary activities. Still I congratulate you most sincerely on the heroic efforts you have made in popularising learning and education by opening no less than one thousand libraries. This is a splendid achievement of which all Indians should feel proud, especially when the whole thing has been done through private and voluntary effort. Your noble example is indeed worthy of emulation by the other provinces of India. I wish you, therefore, the best of success in your self-less efforts to bring knowledge within the easy reach of the man-in-the-street.

x x x
 Mr. S. R. Ranganathan M. A., L. T.,
 F. L. A., Secretary, Madras
 Library Association:—

"The Madras Library Association is glad to learn of the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Public Library Movement in Andhra Desa. It extends to the Andhra Library Conference its fraternal greetings and wishes the Conference and the celebration every success."

x x x
 M. Hanumantha Rao Esquire, Secretary
 Andhra Central Committee,
 Hyderabad:—

x x x
 H. Subba Rau, Esq, B. A., B. L.,
 Honorary Secretary, Public Li-
 brary Committee, Mysore:—

I have very great pleasure in convey-
 ing to you the Resolution passed by the
 Managing Committee, Public Library,
 Mysore at their meeting held on 10th
 August 1933:—

"Resolution:—Resolved that felicita-
 tions on behalf of the Public Library,
 Mysore, be conveyed to the XV
 Andhra Provincial Library Conference
 in connection with the Silver Jubilee of
 the Public Library Movement in
 Andhra Desa".

x x x
 T. Sitaramarao, Esq, Hon. Secretary,
 Sri Krishna Devaraya Andhra
 Bhasha Nilayam, Hyderabad:—

Please permit me to send our best
 wishes for the success of the conference.

x x x
 A R. Wadia, Esq, B. A., (Cantab)
 Barrister-at-Law, Professor of
 Philosophy, The Mysore Uni-
 versity:—

Please accept my heartiest congratu-
 lations on the splendid work turned out
 during the quarter of a century. May
 it continue to flourish and celebrate
 further Jubilee and may it be a living
 inspiration to the rest of India?

x x x
 Mr. K. B. Madhava. M. A. A. I. A
 (Lond); Consulting Actuary,
 The University, Mysore:—

I much regret that I cannot, having
 only just returned to town, undertake
 another journey but I thank you for the
 invitation and send you my most earnest
 greetings.

The crying need of the hour is know-
 ledge, enlightenment and clear vision and

this library movement with its insistence on the reading habit is calculated to bring into existence correct information, thought and judgment. Our political, economic, social, nay even existential, emancipation depends on the advancement of knowledge, and in this connection is it not a great credit to our national genius, that instruments like Puranasravana, Harikatha Kalaskshepams, folk literature, had been invented to anticipate or to supplement even the necessity for reading? I wish your gathering all success.

x

x

x

Mr. G. S. Misra Esq. Librarian, Hindu University Library, Benares :—

I am glad to know that the Andhra Desa Library Association is doing such a good work in the Andhra Province. I wish success to the Conference.

x

x

x

K. L. Narasimbarao Esq. Advocate, High Court.

"The public library movement is a vital and necessary movement for the cultural growth of any race or nation; and no nation or race can aspire to be great or prosperous without promoting cultural development of its peoples. The acquisition of culture is not to be the privilege of the rich and educated only but the common right of even the poorest and illiterate citizen. As the Public Library movement is the only movement in any country which lays emphasis and is striving for the cultural growth of even the poorest and illiterate people, through the programme of adult education the movement deserves support from all people and all quarters."

K. M. Asadulla Esq., Librarian, Imperial Library, Calcutta:—

My best wishes are for the success of the Conference.

x

x

x

N. C. Kelkar Esq., M. A., L. L. B., Editor, The Kesari & The Mah-ratta, Poona:—

I have great pleasure in associating myself with the noble purpose you have in view in promoting the Library Movement in your province. I have great faith in the educational and cultural value of Libraries, which can never be too many in our country. I wish every success in your undertaking & hope that the multifarious programmes chalked out for the All India Library Week will attain the desired result. I will be watching your activities with great interest and will appreciate any reports and literature that you may send to me from time to time, concerning the Movement.

x

x

x

Mr. K. S. K. Swami, B. A., L. L. B., A. L. A., Librarian, Government Secretariat Library, Bombay:—

"I wish the conference success in every respect and hope the deliberations in this conference will go to form a red letter chapter in the annals of Library Movement in Andhra Desa."

x

x

x

Mr. K. Koti Reddi, Bar-at-law, M.L. C. Cuddapah:—

"Wish the conference every success I believe in the desirability if not the necessity of spreading the movement in the country for national reconstruction."

x

x

x

Mr. S. Satyamurti, Advocate, Madras:—

"I request you to convey my best wishes for the success of the function and of the Library Movement."

Opening Speech

• By The Raja Sahab of Challapalli.

Mr. Y. Sivarama Prasad Bahadur then delivered the opening speech as follows : -

Sisters and Brothers!

I am greatly delighted to be privileged to associate myself with the proceedings of this afternoon. The beginnings of Library Movement in Andhra Desa can be traced back to nearly 50 years ago when a humble school master, without the adventitious advantages of English education started the first Library on modern lines in Vizagapatam and to that unknown and unremembered servant of this cause, I pay my homage of affection and admiration. It would not a little redound to our credit if we can erect a memorial to his illustrious name so that it might inspire the feeblest of us to contribute our best for the advancement of Libraries. The later story of Libraries expansion is fresh in our memory and does not need any recapitulation. One fact was however evident all the way and that was the need of co-operation amongst the various Libraries, and it took nearly thirty years before such a need was recognised, and had it not been for the initiative of the Ram Mohan Library, Bezwada, the coordinated working of our Libraries would have been a dream and a moonshine.

It is very often said that in established movements enthusiasm is on the wane, but on occasions of this kind when co-workers gather, exchange their experiences, and celebrate a particular event the impetus provided is exceedingly great. Besides those with whom we have the opportunity of coming into contact, we have the galaxy of workers whose names are sufficient to provide the momentum to us. I cannot fail in this connection to refer to the valuable ser-

vices rendered by Messrs. Iyyanki Venkata Ramanayya, Nalam Krishna Rao, S. V. Narasimhasastri, Titti Balaramayya and Chatti Narasimharao in addition to others too numerous for individual mention. That it should have been possible to celebrate the Jubilee year of the Andhra Desa Library Movement, is the most effective witness to the strength of our movement. No movement suffers for lack of workers, because it rests on its own intrinsic worth for its vitality. The righteousness of the cause is inherently more valuable than the numerical values or superficial extent of any activity. The ideals of the Library movement are the eternal verities of life. They can neither be ignored nor abandoned. To bring such ideals into the field of practical work is given to few, and it is those few that await to be honoured to-day by their countrymen. From all over the country have come these tried servants of the nation and we have resolved to give to them a token of our regard and esteem and it is in that spirit of reverence we have convened this conference. Service under the flag of the Libraries, let me submit to you friends, knows no limitations, for it is identical with service to humanity.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity of partaking in the Jubilee celebrations, and I have no doubt whatsoever that the Library Movement in Andhra Desa will derive new strength from this function and that our co-workers will be able when they go back to their respective areas and localities to carry on the work of Library service with greater vigour and enthusiasm. I have great pleasure in opening the proceedings of this evening.

Presidential Address

By Mr. Chatti Narasimha Rao

Friends and Co-Workers,

I am grateful to you for having afforded me this unique opportunity of coming into touch with the veterans in the field of Library Service during the last 3 or 4 decades. This occasion is significant in itself and marks a definite milestone in our progress. Going back to days, when we had no Library Movement in the sense in which it is understood now and comparing with it, the progress registered since then, the record of work of our veteran Librarians is striking. The difficulties they faced in the early days to converge public opinion to favour the Library scheme by which illiteracy was proposed to be rooted out, were beyond description. Want of popular appreciation on the one side, lack of cumulative and organised effort in society coupled with a step-motherly affection from the state on the other had all contributed in their own measure to the atmosphere of depression under which the work of propagating the Libraries in those days was carried on. But now we are in happier times. Our masters, the peoples as well as the state, have educated us to realise their responsibilities, to understand their obligations and finally to discharge them to any little extent possible. If the Public Library Movement in Andhra Desa nay in the whole of India has been recognised as an indispensable element in Public Life, it is mainly due to the endeavours of known and unknown workers in this realm of humanitarian service. In this sphere of social service, many had participated and not all of them are gathered here. Several who had thrown their heart and soul into the work of

Library expansion have joined the illustrious great, and they are now, not only a memory, but serve as the fountain heads of inspiration. To all those that have left us a heritage and an inspiration, I tender from this honoured place, my feelings of admiration and reverence; and to such of those as are with us now, I extend a warm and heartfelt greeting and express my appreciation of their labours, which, may God grant, will continue also in years to come.

No survey of the services rendered by Library workers can be complete, without referring to the historical background behind it. The Andhra Library Movement in particular, and the All India Public Library Movement in general exist on traditions different from those to which the western trained Library worker is accustomed. The peculiar composition of Indian culture has been responsible for the evolution of a social life which has few counterparts or parallels in other parts of the world. The foundations of society in India, are more spiritual and religionistic than secular. Advancement of learning had been delegated more to the Church rather than to the state. The temple and the mosque, the vihara and the asramam were the centres of learning and not the market place or a random household. These differentiations in the order of our social life, facilitate and have facilitated till now, the spread of Libraries with as little state effort as possible. But unfortunately in these days of democracy fashioned after the western models and suffering the evils of electioneering,

party prejudices and communal warfares, the difficulties of utilising the ancient institutions seems to be growing. If however the Library Movement in Andhra Desa is to go forward and if our one thousand Libraries are to swell into tens of thousands, the temples that we have now dedicated to Gods for religious worship must extend their amenities and conveniences and open their doors to all alike so that they may also be temples of learning and wisdom. It is up to you friends to spread the Gospel of Libraries and to create all such facilities by taking advantage of these ancient historic institutes of learning and worship.

We cannot however in spite of our peculiar past traditions of culture rest on our oars. The world is progressing. Scientific research and social studies are bringing us face to face with new requirements and with new methods of their fulfilment. It will be folly on our part to be blind to the vast strides of modern civilisation and it therefore behoves us to align our thinking and conduct to the needs of Library Science and Library extension. We have to build on our Indian environment a new structure that would stand to meet the exigencies of modern times.

This implies, friends, a great obligation on our part to change our outlook and to be receptive to world influences, so that the Library Movement may always stand out as the emblem of our many sided cultural development. The advances made by western countries like Germany, England and America have afforded us instructive methods by which progress can be achieved in the realm of Libraries. When we will be in a position to adopt their methods in so far as they suit our requirements, there is no manner of

doubt, that our movement will have gathered great strength and momentum and will have genuinely served the interests of the masses which lie as the first charge on our activities.

It is one of the conventions of public life that the President should indicate the future programme of work. I desire hence to place a few suggestions in the hope that they may be closely examined and worked out if acceptable and feasible. It is within the memory of all of us that a few years ago when our Library movement was in its full flood of service, we were conducting magazines in Telugu and English, and now when we are met here to review the endeavours of a quarter of a century we cannot fail to realise that in spite of the economic depression that has given a set back to every kind of public activity not excluding our own, there is an imperative necessity for bringing out these two journals again, in view of the fact that there is a greater output of Library service and research evidenced by the work of the Andhra Desa Library Association, and the All India Public Library Association..

Again we have to think out schemes of social reform by which Library service can be rendered easier whether by means of legislation or through any other form of assistance. Attempts have been successfully made as you know in all civilised countries to place on the statute book provisions and facilities for making knowledge available to all through the agency of Libraries. Our country needs similar legislation adapted to our requirements and founded on democratic basis. In Madras and Benzal, efforts have been made to draft legislation which cannot be considered to be without some fruit. While in the

latter province, the Governor-General refused permission for the introduction of the Bill in the legislature, it was given in respect of the Madras Bill. This double faced attitude of the head of the Indian administration does not encourage in us the hope that legislation alone can meet our wants. Yet we have to hammer at it until every province in India feels that provision for Libraries must constitute as one of the prime charges on its administration. The Madras Library Bill has attempted to move in the direction of finding a satisfactory agency for the extension of Libraries; but the plan is defective and ignores the weight of popular will in carrying out the objects of the statute. It will not be my purpose to criticise it in detail; I would ask you to study the bill thoroughly, to find out the manner and method of improving it, and to finally impress upon our legislatures the importance of having a statute that will provide for the expression of democracy in its framework. The need for legislation is undoubtedly great, and as responsible citizens, it is our duty to find an honourable place for Libraries extension in the departments of our national administration.

More than the revival of our journals, and much more than any attempt or agitation for Library Legislation, we have to discharge a greater and more sacred duty by our countrymen. Statistics reveal the most shameful condition of

our literacy. More than eighty per cent of our fellow countrymen are without the knowledge of the three R's. When I picture to you the state of our backwardness in education, I do not pretend to tell you that the burden of elementary education is on our shoulders. On the other hand, the real object of Library movement brings home to our minds very forcibly that adult education has to be carried on through this medium. Not merely the use of books as such by the visitors to the Library shall be our ideal. We feel that in the extension of knowledge and culture to the very homes of our fellow men and women lies the greatest service that we can do. I hope you will all recognise it more seriously and more intently, because a quarter of a century of work is both an inspiration and a warning. We passed through varying experiences. We faced difficulties and occasionally opposition. We had also successes and victory to our credit. From these experiences, we learn a lesson and each one of us has an idea and an experience to contribute to the proceedings of the jubilee celebrations, and I am sure with the aid of this garnered wisdom, we will be able to reap a rich harvest that will be useful to all workers in the field of Andhra Library Movement.

With the close of the presidential address the programme for the day came to an end.

Second Day's Proceedings: Exchange of Experiences.

The next day, the workers met in the spacious hall of the Rammohan Free Library and resolved themselves into small groups, members of which freely

exchanged their experiences and enlightened one another with their views and opinions on the Library Movement in general. They also expressed

informally amongst themselves the various methods by which more effective propoganda can be made for the spread of Libraries for a couple of hours. They again met in the afternoon when a grand reception was arranged for them in the pure Indian style.

RECEPTION AND REMARKS.

The workers assembled in the evening in the Library Hall where a

grand reception awaited them. In pure Indian style, the president extended to each one an individual ovation and greeting and as a mark of reverence smeared each one's body with perfumed sandal and Attar. They were next treated to a shower of Rosewater and were given betel leaves and nuts. Finally each one was rewarded for his or her services with either a *Shawl* or a *Sari*.

Special Gift of "Saraswati"

A special reward of an ivory model of "Saraswati" the goddess of learning emblematic of Libraries was made to Mr. Iyyanki Venkata Ramanayya, the secretary of the Andhra Desa Library

Association for his services in this cause.

After few words of final exhortation from the president, the celebrations came to a close.

Appreciation.

By Mrs. K. SAMUEL,

Librarian, Queen Mary's College, Madras

I must really thank you for having given me the pleasure of attending the Andhra Desa Public Libraries Conference. I thoroughly enjoyed it. The proceedings were full of instruction for me. The enthusiasm shown by the Andhras both men and women—is most

encouraging to the stamping out of illiteracy in the Andhra Districts.

I do hope and wish that the movement will live long enough to see not only many more conferences like this but illiteracy completely stamped out of the Andhra Districts.

LIVING THE LIFE OF THE WHOLE RACE.

"The man who adds the life of books to the actual Life every day, lives the life of his whole race. The man without books lives only the life of one individual".

—Bennett.

Work Before Us*

By Mr. T. C. DUTTA.

*Secretary, Hooghly District Library Association and Joint Secretary,
Bengal Library Association.*

It gives me great pleasure in conveying my good wishes to the delegates assembled at the Jubilee Conference of the Andhradesa Library Association. My prolonged illness prevented me from writing a paper for the conference but however I am sending some notes.

At the outset I must stress the imperative need of professional training for the librarians and other workers to achieve success in spreading the library gospel and keeping this movement alive. Every opportunity should be seized to secure trained men to fill up vacancies in the library positions.

The present status of English and American libraries has been secured only by the complete amity and harmonious methodical working on modern scientific methods and other countries including China are following their lead. They have got strong national organisations for library workers to chalk out programme of work on nationwide scale. They discuss the important problems threadbare, formulate the course of action and the sectional committee of a few experts on the line would see that the recommendations are carried out at least to some extent before the next conference. I think the time has come when we should proceed in a similar way. We should try to secure as many trained librarians as possible in the working bodies of the different library

Associations and push forward the movement with their aid.

In my South Indian tour year before last, I met many librarians of Madras, Bangalore, Madura etc. who are all eager for the further development of library activities in our country. I have seen similar enthusiasm in my North Indian tour last year. Now it is our duty to get the professional librarians from the University, Government and other public libraries and the library trustees and other non-professional workers together and formulate a course of action to give an impetus to the library movement which has already attracted public attention to a considerable extent. I find from a press notice that a similar conference would be held at Calcutta in September next and I hope that no restrictions would be imposed this time like the Lahore conference held 15 years back under the auspices of the Government of India, though the Government of India would be represented at the conference, I presume. In view of the imperative need of library legislation like other countries and also state aid we need co-operation of the Government too and I would request you all to come and join the conference to guide its deliberations. When an opportunity has come, let us try if we can gain further strength by convincing all as would join the con-

* Message sent to the Silver Jubilee celebrations of The Library Movement in Andhra Desa.

ference about the imperative need of library legislation. I am glad to state that Kumar Munindra Deb Rai Mohasai M.L.C., the President of the Bengal Library Association has already given notice of a Public Library Bill in the Bengal Legislative Council to secure free registration of libraries like Co-operative Societies, statutory provisions for the efficient management of the public libraries and formation of a library commission. I think similar attempts should be made in other provinces too. The Public Library Bill introduced in C. P. Council seems to be too much officialised. The local committees should, I think, be empowered to look after the internal management.

Andhradesa has done a lot in pushing forward the library movement and is proud of having excellent workers like Mr. I. V. Ramanayya and Mr. D. T. Rao, who though busy men devote much of their time, money and energy towards this cause. Andhradesa is proud of having a library enthusiast like Dr. Radhakrishnan at the head of its own University. I should mention the name of another sincere worker Mr. A. Ramakrishna Rao, assis-

tant librarian of the Andhra University with whom we gained acquaintance last year when he came here to get training at the Imperial Library.

We are trying to educate the public on the modern conceptions of library technique through the meetings and conferences of our Association and it appears that the days are not far off when we may have a network of bigger and better libraries catering to tastes of readers of different ages and nationalities without recognising any caste or creed. We are having separate children's sections in our public libraries. The school libraries are also being improved and the inspecting staff of the Education Department are co-operating with us to improve their status.

In conclusion I offer my hearty thanks to you for extending this privilege to an humble worker like myself and wish your conference all success. It is really gratifying to find a nationwide consciousness in library matters. The programmes of your conference and the Punjab Library conference seem so attractive that I feel very much for not being able to be at either of the places. Let Unity be our watchword.

Ellore Taluk Library Conference

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao on the Functions of Village Libraries

The Ellore Taluk Libraries' Conference took place at Vatlur with Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao, B.A., B.L., Ex. M. L. C., Ex.-Chairman, Municipal Council, Bezwada in the chair. The Conference was opened by Mr. Iyyanki Venkataramanaiah of Bezwada, a vete-

ran worker in the Library Movement in India.

The president referred at the outset to the value of libraries and traced the growth of the Library Movement in Andhra Desa and India and proceeding he said:

"I am told that your Taluk has so far twentyfive libraries in good working order, and I appeal to the public spirited men and women of this Taluk to take up the task of starting at least a reading room and a library in every village of above 500 population. The necessity and usefulness of reading rooms and libraries cannot be overstated. Education of the masses is one of the most urgent and at the same time stupendous tasks of the present time. Without their assistance Swaraj will not come and after Swaraj comes they have to exercise the fundamental function of voting with proper discretion. Hereafter they shall be the rulers and masters of our country. If the Village school helps to dispel illiteracy, the village Reading room and Library is necessary to spread culture and instil public spirit. We know the great part played by the library movement in Andhra Desa. We know that the reading room and library wherever it has existed, has become a centre of culture and progress, from where knowledge of day to day situation of the country has emanated not only to the homes in the village, but also to the surrounding villages, and where patriotic resolves have been made by the youths of the village to serve the country and society. It is no exaggeration to say that it is due largely to the innumerable village Libraries and Reading rooms, that have been started by the public spirited and energetic village youths in Andhra Desa particularly in the coastal districts, that national consciousness has grown among Andhra villagers, that women from villages have come forward to work and suffer for the country, that social reform has made great progress and all opposition to the anti-untouchability movement has practically died in our

villages. The Andhra Library Association was started in the wake of Andhra Renaissance known as the Andhra Movement and since its birth in 1914 has done yeoman service to Andhra Desa. In the matter of Libraries purely it occupies a place only next to the Baroda library movement in the whole of India. But if we consider its position from the point of view of fostering patriotism and public service, it occupies a unique place in the history of the Library movement of India.

"While the Baroda movement owes its inception and development to the patronage of the enlightened Government of Baroda, the library movement in Andhra has been due solely to the devoted energies of the Andhra youths and to the support given by the Andhra public. Even when the Madras Government has come forward during later years to patronise the movement, they have imposed so many shackles on the freedom of the libraries for giving financial assistance, that library workers are loathe to surrender their liberty for a mess of pottage. It was the Andhra Desa Library Association that convened the first All India Library Conference in Gokhale Hall, (Madras) in 1929, at which rules and regulations were framed for the All India Public Library Association and adopted and since then the latter has been established on a permanent footing and the All India Library conferences have been held more systematically in some important centre of India or other and the Library movement has taken an All India shape. The second All India Library Conference had been held again in Coacanada in 1923 in the Congress week under the presidentship of Mr. M. R. Jayakar. I wish to tender our

homage to the blessed memory of late Suri Venkata Narasimhasastri, the founder of the Andhra Desa Library Movement who devoted all his brilliant talents and energies for the progress of the movement and whose untimely death last month has created a void in the movement that cannot be easily filled.

In this connection it is neither irrelevant nor impertinent to condemn the unwarranted and irresponsible statements made by Mr. S. R. Ranganathan, the Secretary of the Madras Library Association, belittling the library movement of Andhra Desa in contemptuous language in his book styled "The Five laws of Library Science" published recently. He has stated that "going further south, we see a few decaying remnants of a bumper crop of libraries that shot forth at the close of the last decade in the land of the Andhras but soon got strangled, partly as a result of the vicissitudes of the political movement with which they got interwined." I do not think that he has ever visited Andhra Desa or possesses any experience of library work in villages. He may be an expert on the science of cataloguing books that libraries get. But I must say that he has not understood the scope and object of the library movement. If libraries and reading rooms are worth their existence, they must serve as centres of educating the people on the country's problems and of creating a zeal for service to motherland at this critical juncture.

I do not mean that libraries and reading rooms do not contain also books, newspapers and magazines dealing with agriculture, sanitation, medicine, ethics and other subjects of permanent value to the ryots and helpful to their moral and material progress and that workers

in libraries will not also spread knowledge on those subjects. But when the country is seething with political restlessness and engaged in a grim fight for Swaraj, Mr. Ranganathan should not expect the villagers that attend the reading rooms and libraries to be like the wood and glasses of the almyras, impervious to the national spirit raging round them, and he has no business to blame the 'bumper crop of libraries in the land of Andhras' for showing political bias. His statement that the bumper crop has only a few decaying remnants now is unfounded. The wave of nationalism that has spread over the land of Andhras, instead of sweeping away the reading rooms, and libraries, has infused greater life and strength in them as sources of disseminating political knowledge. I shall not take up your valuable time by showing in detail how in every important town of Andhra there exist today atleast half a dozen libraries with buildings of their own, how some municipalities like Bezwada, Guntur and Vizianagaram, make annual grants liberally to those libraries in addition to maintaining their own libraries, and how a network of reading rooms and libraries exists in our villages. I shall only say that the Andhra Library Movement is as alive today as a decade ago when Mr. Ranganatham admits that a bumper crop of libraries existed, and that every Andhra takes pride in it. I request Mr. Ranganathan to expurgate his wrong statements from his otherwise useful book as early as possible.

Coming to the various activities of village libraries, I consider village libraries to be the most fitting centres for village reconstruction and suggest to them to carry on constructive work. Every library should have a harijan's section and a wo en's section. Har-

jans should be admitted freely into the library on equal terms with caste Hindus, and a mixed night school for harijans and other labourers should be opened under each library. Removal of untouchability is a most pressing problem of the day, and unless the five crores of harijans are conceded all the religious, social and economic privileges that other Hindus enjoy, Hindu society will be disrupted and crumble to pieces in no distant time. It is therefore the primary duty of village libraries to take up the question of the removal of untouchability and of the uplift of harijans in right earnest and do their utmost in that cause. Special attention should also be paid to the education of girls by villagers and libraries should lend books and newspapers to homes for women to read. Women are being enfranchised and are going to play a real part in the near future in the public life of the country. As soon as Swaraj comes laws will be surely passed giving women equal status with men with regard to property, inheritance and marriage.

Libraries will have to get popular lectures delivered on hygiene, sanitation, physiology, history and geography, agriculture, gardening, land tenures and administration, and economic social and political subjects, by competent persons for the benefit of the inhabitants of the village and of the neighbouring villages; and also get educated ladies to deliver lectures for men and women. Libraries have to start classes for teaching Hindi and perform Vardhanthis of great Indians, like Mahatmaji, Lokamanya Tilak, Gokhale, Sree Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Raja Ram Mohun Roy. It is possible in many instances for libraries to get Ayurvedic medicines and administer them to the sick. Libraries may train

up volunteers and get social service done. Sometimes a library can also form an arbitration board with the help of leading ryots and save people from ruinous litigation. I also want that Library workers should pay special attention to the uprooting of communal spirit and creating national outlook in the masses. Of course, these are some of the things already being done by some of the libraries. But I want that all these things should be done by all the libraries. Provided there are devoted and energetic workers, libraries can make themselves useful to the villagers in diverse ways and carry on many activities conducive to the welfare and progress of the villagers.

As regards the books to be got by libraries, there is no use of being contented with getting some puranas, prabandhams, Neethi Sathakams, dramas, Vratakalpams Etc. We have to make our country modern. We need not lose our spiritual foundations, but we must build up a new national edifice assimilating much from the world forces of today. Therefore, even the villagers will have to go in for modern and useful subjects like those that I have already mentioned. It is regrettable that our vernacular, Telugu is not rich in books on History, Science and other modern and useful subjects. Librarians have to gather whatever books are available in Telugu so far on these subjects, and the public have to patronise authors who write on them. The Andhra Library Association has to supply to every library in Andhra Desa a list of books available in Telugu on modern knowledge from time to time.

I exhort the youths of Andhra Desa to establish libraries and reading rooms in every village and make them real centres of enlightenment and nationalism

The bulwark of Chinese nationalism is the youth movement. The youths of China took upon themselves the duty of educating and enlightening the masses—ryots, labourers, and women by summer schools and public lectures and and magic lanterns. The work was done on a huge scale. The masses became zealous converts to nationalism and the result has been that within half a dozen years the great land of China with 48 crores

of population became free from the grip of selfish warlords and the intrigues of foreign nations who were supporting anarchy and civil war and became consolidated under the rule of the Chinese nationalist party namely the Koumentang. Let similarly the youths of Andhra Desa carry the torch of knowledge and enlightenment to every home and win over the masses to establish Swaraj on solid foundations.

The Sixth Kistna District Library Conference, Bezwada.

The sixth session of the Kistna District Libraries Conference was held in the shamiana put up in the premises of

the local Ram Mohan Public Library at 4 p. m. on 23-4 1933. Mr. A. Narayana Rao, M. A., B. Sc., in the chair.

Welcome Address

By Mr. A. V. S. D. Prasad Rao, Secretary, Ram Mohan Library

On behalf of Reception Committee of the 6th Kistna Dt. Libraries' Conference I have great pleasure in according you a hearty and warm reception. I welcome you, gentlemen, to this our great historic city, Vijayavada, the seat of the library movement for over two decades, for the Andhra Desa, nay for the whole of India. I am fully alive to the inconvenience you may feel in coming down to this place and staying here, especially during this part of the year as I am aware of our shortcomings in our attempts to make you comfortable. But none the less our welcome to you, is warm and our co-operation in your endeavours sincere. I am sure you will bear with us for our shortcomings in the same generous spirit as that which brought you here in response to my humble invitation.

I submit that our District is second

to none throughout our province in the matter of the organisation and development of the Public Library Movement. The history of the movement in our district is not a little interesting and it is not out of place on an occasion like the present. It is very encouraging to note that we have over 120 libraries in all in our district. The earliest library was started at Bezwada, even in the year 1903, called the Students' Self Improving Society. That institution is still working with great success, turning out very valuable work. It has a good collection of books and also has a free night school attached to it. There was practically a lull in the movement till the Ram Mohan Library was opened in the year 1911. It was partly due to the impetus given to the movement by the then Secretary and President of this institution and partly on account of the

wave of the Renaissance commonly known as "The Andhra Movement," that was passing through our land that our movement gathered fresh momentum and as many as 30 libraries sprang up in our district within the brief space of two years.

This phenomenal success of the movement is characterised by Mr. S. R. Ranganathan of the Madras Libraries Association in words that do not reflect credit on him. The statement deserves the utmost censure at our hands. He writes in his Five laws of Library Science thus: "We see a few decaying remnants of a bumper crop of libraries that shot forth at the close of the last decade in the land of the Andhras, but soon got strangled, partly as a result of the vicissitudes of the political movement which which they got intertwined." The subsequent history of the Public Library Movement in our district amply justifies the remark that the above statement is untrue. It deserves the condemnation with all the force at our command. The Guntur District Libraries Conference has already done that and also requested the Madras Libraries Association to delete those words from the book. It is high time that we followed suit.

At this stage, after having sketched the progress of the library movement in our land, let us turn back, and take stock of the situation and see how far our efforts bore fruit. In this respect

I am afraid we have left much to be desired. I am always faced with this uncomfortable question, whether by our libraries we are not trying to teach the taught, instructing those who are already educated and trying to clarify and systematise their ideas. In spite of our efforts all these years, we have not been able to liquidate illiteracy to any appreciable extent. It is a great pity if not a tragedy that our masses, should sit with supreme unconcern, and remain in profound ignorance of those discussions of great pith and moment affecting their future destinies. It is for you, Gentlemen, to devise ways and means whereby this tragedy may be averted and this illiteracy is dissolved. A conference like this is the best body which can solve such problems.

I hope to give you in my own humble way and without the fear of encroaching upon your special domain, a few suggestions for tackling the problems before us. The examples of Russia, Sweden and nearer home Baroda are a source of inspiration to us. I am confident that the youth of the country can do a great deal for the amelioration of the masses. It is upto them to go about the villages and the slums in the towns and teach the masses what they had learnt at the university. So I appeal to the youth to shake off idleness and help us in making our movement a success. I once more welcome you, gentlemen. I wish you all success and I do hope and trust that your labours will soon bear fruit.

Opening Speech

BY Mr. V. V. S. SRESTI

Secretary, Guntur District Library Association.

Mr. V. V. Subbaraya Sresti of Vetalpalem, in declaring the conference open referred to the pre-eminent position occupied by the Kistna district in the

field of library activities, surveyed the progress of the library movement and averred that an Act for the establishment and maintenance of library was

quite necessary. The Libraries Bill drafted for Madras presidency was defective in many respects and he suggested that provision should be made in the Bill for extending its scope to the existing libraries also. He also put forth a strong plea for books being published on popular scientific subjects.

He paid a tribute of praise to the great services rendered by the late Mr. S. V. Narasimhasastry and Mr. I. Venkata Ramanaiah for the cause of the library movement and appealed to the youth to contribute their mite for the development of adult education.

Presidential Address

BY A. NARAYANA RAO M. A., B. Sc.

Mr. A. Narayana Rao in the course of his presidential address, took strong exception to the remarks of Mr. S. R. Ranganatham and observed that the said remarks should be immediately expunged from the book as they were not correct. The library movement, he said, was still alive and pregnant with many possibilities of expansion. He joined in the praise to the services of the late Mr. S. V. Narasimha Sastri and Mr. I. V. Ramanaiah and hoped for the day when active workers in other fields also would receive the same amount of public recognition as those in the political field. He urged that the local boards and municipalities should ungrudgingly help libraries with liberal grants. He struck a note of warning to the workers in the library field that they would not succeed if they attempted to divert public

attention from the temple to the library but suggested that the best thing for an earnest library worker would be to cultivate the temple-going mentality himself, create public confidence in himself, become useful to the masses, thus earning their regard and esteem and subsequently achieve the noble ideal of enlightening and ameliorating the condition of the masses. This and this method alone, the President opined, would be the best way of serving the masses. He saw no purpose in comparing the library movement with that of either England, America or Baroda since the conditions here were quite different from those obtaining there and congratulated the Andhra workers on the success they had been able to achieve in spite of many handicaps and lack of support of either the rulers or moneyed men.

Resolutions

The conference then adopted resolutions recording its sympathy at the sad demise of Mr. S. V. Narasimha Sastry and conveying their condolences to the bereaved family, calling upon people in the district to establish libraries in villages where there were none, requesting the Government to exempt the libraries from paying registration fees, call-

ing upon municipal councils and local boards and panchayats to sanction liberal grants to libraries, expressing its condemnation of the remarks of Mr. S. R. Ranganathan and requesting the Madras Library Association to expunge the said remarks from the book.

The conference also resolved recording its opinion that the draft Library

Bill was defective in several respects, that the Bill did not aim at encouraging vernaculars and that the imposition of a new tax would be a heavy burden on the already heavily taxed ryot.

The conference appointed a standing committee with Messrs A. Narayana

Rao (President). K. S. Ramachandra Rao, A. Seethamma, B. Sitha Bai, G. Venkata Subbaiah (Vice-Presidents) and A. Prasada Rao, R. Raghavayya, G. Virayya, G. Ranganayakamma and M. Suryanarayana Sasuri, Suri Krishnamurti B. A. B. L., (Joint Secretaries).

Bezawada Library Association

B E Z W A D A.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The first anniversary of the Bezawada Library Association was celebrated in the Library Conference pandal under the presidency of Mr. R. Jannardanam Naidu of Connemara Public Library of Madras on 18th April 1933.

Mr. Jannardanam Naidu, in his remarks, stressed the necessity of sound organisations for doing any useful work and observed that on the Anniversary Day they should take stock of what the Association had been able to do in the year just then passed, to find out defects in the year's work and to chalk out a programme for the future based on the experience of the previous years. An occasion like that, the speaker averred, would afford an opportunity to exchange views and lay out programmes for further work based on joint consultations. He hoped that Bezawada town which was responsible for the spread of the library movement would be a source of inspiration for others to follow in future and work for the enlightenment of the masses.

Mr. K. S. Venkataramani then addressed the gathering. After complimenting the Andhras on the unique success achieved by them in various fields of cultural activity and characterising Bezawada as the fountain head of the Library Movement, he dwelt on the useful part that libraries would play in mass education and the imperative necessity of Government sanctioning liberal grants for libraries. He hoped the day would not be far off when every village in this land could boast of a library suited to its condition. He also appealed to the public to create a favourable opinion in this matter so that rich men might come forward with large endowments for libraries.

The Secretary, Mr. I. Venkataramayya, read the annual report for the year in which he mentioned that Bezawada has 13 public and 6 semi-public Libraries majority of them having a building of their own, making up a total of one lakh of rupees as their structural value. Amongst themselves

MR. R. JANARDANAM NAIDU,

B. A., L. T.; D. E. (OXON.)

Librarian, Connemera Public Library, Madras.



**President of The First Anniversary of
THE BEZWADA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, BEZWADA**

On 17th April, 1933.

MR. R. MANCHANDA.
LIBRARIAN, HAILY COLLEGE LIBRARY, LAHORE.



Secretary,
PUNJAB LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, LAHORE.

they have 15,000 books worth Rs. 25,000; daily about 800 outside persons in addition to the members take advantage of the service afforded by them.

Then Messrs. N. Satyanarayana, S. Narayanamurti, K. V. L. Narasimha Rao of Madras addressed the gathering on the different methods by which the

masses could be educated with advantage.

The function came to a happy termination late in the evening, with the concluding remarks from the chair and a musical performance on Veena by Sangitha Vidwan S. Radhamadhava Kavi of Pithapur.

Library Movement in Andhra Desa A Controversy

The Fifteenth Andhra Desa Library Conference held at Bezwada on 10th August 1933, passed a resolution * condemning Mr. Ranganathan's remarks in Library Movement in Andhra Desa in his book entitled "Five Laws of Library Science."

The following correspondence appeared in the Daily Press in that connection.

LIBRARIES IN ANDHRA DESA: A REJOINDER

• Mr. K. V. Krishnaswami Aiyar, President, Madras Library Association, writes:—

I find that one of the resolutions passed at the recent Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Libraries in the Andhra Desa as published in The Hindu of the 14th instant condemns the statements of

Mr. Ranganathan in his 'Five Laws of Library Science' to the effect that "we see a few decaying remnants of a bumper crop of libraries that shot forth at the close of the last decade in the land of the Andhras, but soon got strangled partly as a result of the vicissitudes of political movement with which they got intertwined" and requests the Madras Library Association to delete that statement from the book."

It is indeed very regrettable that the above criticism should be reiterated notwithstanding explanations offered on prior occasions when similar criticisms were made. We have only to draw attention to the following extract from an article contributed by that Andhra patriot and scholar, Mr. Fattabhi Sitaramayya, to our first publication "A

* Similar resolutions were passed at the (1) Seventh Guntur District Conference (2) Eighth Guntur District Library Conference (3) Thirteenth Ganjam-Vizagapatnam Districts Library Conference (4) Fourteenth Kalingadesa Library Conference (5) First Ellore Taluq Library Conference (6) First Bhimavaram Taluq Library Conference (7) Sixth Kistna District Library Conference (8) First Repalle Taluq Library Conference (9) First Anantapur District Library Conference (10) First Tenali Taluq Library Conference and (11) Andhra Desa Zamin Ryots Conference (12) West Godavari District Co-operative Conference (13) Kurunol District Library Conference (14) Tenali Taluq Library Conference (15) West Godavari District Library Conference (16) Tadepalligudem Taluq Library Conference (17) Tanuku Taluq Library Conference (18) Bapatla Taluq Library Conference (19) Guntur Taluq Library Conference.

collection of Essays by Divers Hands." It runs as follows:—

"Years ago when the magic words of rural reconstruction were not yet discovered, the Andhras following the inspiration from Baroda, turned their attention to the question of village libraries. Nearly 300 libraries springing up in a short time. Many of them have since gone the way of all flesh—at any rate of all books; some are intact and prosperous. Not a few because of the bone of contention between two powerful village factions. Later, political and other developments have dulled the edge of enthusiasm for libraries. The advent of non-co-operation and the embargo placed by it on the acceptance of Government grants put the promotion of the movement in an unenviable position. At last by a stroke of fortunate chance the centre of gravity of the movement shifted from Bezvada to Madras. And the result is an earnest, whole-hearted interest created in the metropolis for this instrument—potent and simple at once—of rural reconstruction in the very metropolis of the Presidency."

May I hope that this will satisfy the discontents and that there will be an end to this and other kinds of unnecessary attack upon the activities of the Madras Library Association, which I have been recently noticing in different phases. The enthusiasm of zealous workers might more usefully be directed towards constructive programmes of work.

Let it be clearly understood that we do not in the slightest underestimate the work of the Andhra Library Association as pioneers of this movement in this province and as, in no small measure responsible for the formation of the Madras Association. Whenever I poke, I have always referred to our

indebtedness to the Andhras in this respect. It is also obvious that they do not suffer from any lack of zeal.

Our "Five Laws of Library Science" was published in 1931 and if the proof of the awakening that is now not only so visible but also so much felt should continue till the time when we shall be publishing a second edition of the book, we shall only be too glad to state this subsequent history as well.

LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN ANDHRA DESA—REPLY TO REJOINDER

Mr. N. V. L. Narasimha Rao, Chairman, Municipal Council, Guntur, Bar-at-law, President, Executive Committee, Andhra Desa Library Association writes on 30-8-1933.

Sir,

My attention has been drawn to the statement made by Mr. K. V. Krishnaswami Aiyar, President, Madras Library Association, in "The Hindu" dated 16th instant, by way of rejoinder to the resolution passed by the Andhra Desa Library Conference held at Bezvada.

Mr. Krishnaswami Aiyar takes exception to the passing of the resolution in spite of his having offered explanations on prior occasions. To my knowledge, or to the knowledge of those to whom it concerns, there has not been any such explanation; and if Mr. Aiyar can point out to us the public occasion and the place where such statement was made, we will only be too happy to record it.

So far as the statement that appears in the "Five Laws of Library Science" is concerned, I am still constrained to say

that it is not only far wide of the mark, but it is at variance with the facts. Mr. Aiyar summons the aid of a statement by Dr. Pattabhisitaramiah in a publication of the Madras Library Association, to substantiate the accuracy of Mr. Ranganathan's asseveration. It is also to be remembered that Dr. Pattabhisitaramiah wrote it, at the invitation of Mr. Krishnaswami Aiyar, as one of the "Diverse hands" that were responsible for that publication. Dr. Pattabhisitaramiah may be a good politician and a good journalist, but cannot speak with authority on the subject of libraries, which have during the last 25 years been progressing well in Andhra Desa. Every one connected with this movement knows that the centre of gravity did not move to Madras, but on the other hand, Madras received a momentum and inspiration from Andhra Desa in the month of December 1927.

If I remember right, during the month of November 1927, some friends from Bengal and other places expressed in the press that the All India Public Library Conference should be organised in the last week of December at Madras; and Mr. Muthukrishniah, Secretary of Pudukottah State Library Association wrote to Mr. Ranganathan to organise the All India Public Library Conference, to which he replied that the time before him was too short, and that consequently he could not do anything in the matter. In that predicament, Mr. I. Venkataramanayya—the ever energetic Secretary of the Andhra Desa Library Association, went to Madras in the first week of December 1927, stayed there till the end of that month and organised the All-India Public Library Conference, and initiated Mr. Krishnaswami Aiyar into the movement. After this Mr. Venkataramanayya, as Secreta-

ry of the All-India Public Library Association, sent invitations to some of the leading citizens of Madras to meet at the residence of Mr. Aiyar to concert measures for the formation of a Library Association for the city of Madras; and at that meeting Mr. Venkataramanayya explained in detail the work done in Andhra Desa and Baroda and advised them to take similar measures for the spread of the movement.

Mr. Krishnaswami Aiyar himself acknowledges in appreciative terms, only 20 months before the publication of "the Library Movement" by Diverse Hands, the work turned out by the Andhras in the field of the library movement. He said, as the Chairman of the Reception Committee of the All-India Public Library Conference, in the last week of December 1927.

"It is gratifying, however to note that the Andhra Desa has made great strides in this direction, and given the lead to others. The successful organisation of free public libraries in the Andhra Desa due to the untiring exertions of stalwart patriots in that part of the country, has demonstrated the many beneficent results that flow from the institution both from what may be termed the strictly national point of view and from the point of view of the encouragement and growth of the vernacular language. If by any organisation the Andhras have proved their claim to have an Andhra Province and their fitness for Swaraj, the efficient working of the library movement furnishes the evidence."

Within this short period of 20 months the "great strides made by the Andhras in this direction," "the successful organisation of free public libraries", "the untiring exertions of stalwart patriots", "the efficient working of the library

movement"—all have dwindled into "a few decaying remnants of a bumper crop of libraries". And now, in spite of it all, Mr. Krishnaswamy Aiyar still wants to cling to such a statement, notwithstanding the protestations at every Library Conference held in Andhra Desa, and wants to justify the same.

Mr. Aiyar states in the course of his communique that the Andhras had attacked the Madras Library Association in various ways. The Andhras have never indulged in any attack against their or any other Association and the onus of proving the same rests on Mr. Aiyar. On the other hand, through the "Five Laws of Library Science" published by the Madras Library Association cheap diatribes and malicious aspersions were made against the libraries in Andhra Desa and if now Andhra Desa protests against it and condemns this activity of the Madras Library Association he has to thank himself and his friend Mr. Ranganathan.

Andhra appreciates the work of the Madras Library Association. The honest endeavours of Messrs. Aiyar and Ranganathan deserve praise, but the continued obstinacy to defend a palpably untrue statement does not in the least seem fair. It is not too late to make amends for it.

The statement of Mr. Ranganathan, in the "Five Laws of Library Science" has resulted in an insidious propaganda being carried on against Andhra Desa Library Association and All-India Public Library Association. It is desirable therefore that this statement may be deleted, without any further controversy.

LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN THE ANDHRA DESA.

Dr. B. Patuabhisectaramayya's Statement.

In regard to the recent controversy that has arisen between the Library Workers in the Andhra Desa and some officers connected with the Madras Library Association notably Mr. Ranganathan and Mr. Krishnaswami Iyer, Dr. B. Patuabhisectaramayya, having expressed his high esteem and regard for both these scholars, has made the following statement in answer to the unkind observations offered by them.

"I am pained to see that any reference should be made to the Library Movement in the Andhra Desa in deprecating terms. It is somewhat a sad but common experience that criticisms offered in a genuine spirit with a view to domestic reform and internal rectification should be taken advantage of by people outside unconnected with the home or a movement in order to disparage that home or that movement. How often do we tell to our wives and sons that our houses are dirty, that the corners are full of cob-webs, that the drains are ill-washed, and there are manure heaps in the backyard? Does that justify our neighbour saying that our house is decayed and rotten?"

"I remember how often of a phase in the Congress, we have spoken of its disorganisation, of the weakness of its members, of their anxiety for immediate fruit of their yearning for the flesh-pots of councils, of their love of the loaves and fishes of office. I remember also to have commented upon the want of business capacity in the best of our Congressmen who have sacrificed a career at the bar, who are unable to maintain a cash-book and do not understand what a ledger is. Does it mean that Congress accounts are rotten or Congress institutions are decayed? No, these are all

domestic criticisms offered in a spirit of self-examination.

Even so were my remarks offered in regard to the Library Movement in the Andhra Desa. I was drawing a contrast between the excitement and the passion that swayed the people at the commencement of the Library Movement and the comparative lack of enthusiasm for the same movement in later years. I said that not a few were prosperous but some were moribund. That was the bare truth. Hundreds of libraries grew up. If tens out of them remained prosperous and intact and tens decayed and died, that was not a result to be ashamed of and would not justify the remark of Mr. Ranganadhan that "we see a few decaying remnants of a bumper crop of libraries that shot forth at the close of the last decade in the land of the Andhras, but soon got strangled partly as a result of the vicissitudes of political movement with which they got intertwined." No, this is not a fact. The fact was that later enthusiasms and higher sacrifices swallowed and submerged the earlier ones. Political passions are always more absorbing. The quiet constructive work of the library is a thing that must appeal only to a few sedate temperaments and while the love of excitement and the love of tranquility

have never competed with each other in life, the fact still remains that, when there is enthusiasm abroad, there is comparative dullness elsewhere. Human affections like matter are impenetrable. One set of affections always takes possession of you. You love your family; you do not think of your country. You love your country, you do not think of your family. In between there are various grades. Even so was it with regard to the various aspects of the political movement, when it was dull and torpid everybody turned his attention to the Library Movement. Yes, there was a bumper crop but to say that the whole crop has decayed, that a few decaying remnants are all that form a vestige of the past is not mere exaggeration but an untruth. Unconscious it may be but ungenerous undoubtedly. The fact is that in spite of the rising tides of political, co-operative, and cultural movements, the Library Movement has remained not as a ripple making a lot of demonstration on the surface of the waters of life but as a force imbedded deep in those waters. It has permeated the whole Telugu country, given a new interest in life, and has formed the centre of numerous public activities of a cultural kind. More we may not claim, but less we shall not accept.

Bengal Library Association

A meeting of the library workers of Bengal was held at the Imperial Library, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 14th. September, 1933 at 8-30 A. M. to reorganise the Bengal Library Association. The Bengal delegates attending the All India Library Conference and the prominent people interested in the promo-

tion of the library movement in this province attended the meeting.

Kumar Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai, M. L. C., was voted to the Chair.

Being requested by the President, Mr. S. R. Ranganadhan, Secretary, Madras Library Association, Mr. Labhu Ram, Librarian, Punjab University Library

and Mr. K. M. Asadullah, Librarian, Imperial Library described how the association can do much useful work in this province, if it is re-organised properly.

Mr. T. C. Dutta stated the circumstances leading to the convening of this meeting as an outcome of the proposal adopted at a meeting of the association held at the Imperial Library, Calcutta just after the Third All Bengal Library Conference, attended by the Minister of Bengal Government, the President of the Bengal Legislative Council, Secretary Education Department, Chief Executive Officer, Corporation of Calcutta, Mr. N. M. Dutt besides the officials and members of the Association. He suggested that enrolment of members was urgently needed to make the association function properly.

It was decided that the subscription for the personal membership would be collected at Rupee one per year according to the old constitution.

The following Provisional Committee was then elected to carry on necessary re-organisation work with a view to give the Association a firm footing:—

President:

Kumar Munindra Deb Rai Mohasai,
M. L. C.

Vice-Presidents:

Mr. Santosh Kumar Bose.
Dr. U. N. Brahamachary.
Dr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee.
Mr. K. M. Asadullah.
Mr. M. J. Seth.
Mr. H. A. Stark.
Mrs. Sarala Debi Chowdhury.

Hony. Secretaries:

Mr. T. C. Dutta.
Mr. S. N. Rudra.
Mr. A. M. F. Wahab.

Hony. Treasurer:

Mr. Manindra Lal Banerjee.

Members of the Council:

Mrs. N. C. Sen.
Mr. Johan Van Manen.
Mr. Raj Raj Mukherjee.
Mr. Sushil Kumar Ghosh.
Mr. Surendra Nath Kuma.
Mr. Purna Chandra Neogy.
Mr. Sukumar Ranjan Das Gupta.
Mr. S. N. Sinha.
Mr. Bankim Mukherjee.
Mr. Manindra Nath Rudra.
Mr. H. G. Franks.
Mr. Narendra Nath Ganguly.
Mr. Abdul Majid Rushdi.
Mr. S. Chatterjee.
Mr. M. B. Roy.
Mr. Kasem Ali.
Mr. K. C. Biswas.
Mr. Birendra Ch. Bose.
Mr. Nripen Chowdhury.
Mr. Sachindra Nath Mukherjee.
Mr. P. C. Bose.

Collection of personal membership fees was started at the meeting by the newly-elected Hony. Treasurer and response was very encouraging.

It was resolved that necessary forms be printed and work of the Association be started by the new incumbents immediately.

Mr. T. C. Dutta promised to present his collection of Library Literature to form the nucleus of a Reference Library at the Head Quarters of the Association and the offer was accepted with thanks.

It was resolved that the Head Quarters of the Association would be located at the Imperial Library.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair the proceedings came to a close.

Madras Library Bill

A Criticism

The following is the report submitted by the Subcommittee, appointed at the Andhra Desa libraries conference held in August at Bezwada. The committee consisted of:—

Mr. D. T. Rao, Bar-at-law.

„ B. Seetaramaraju, Bar-at-law,

M.L.A.

„ M. Poornachandar Rao, B.A.;B.L.

We have been asked by the Andhra Desa Public Libraries Conference to examine the Madras Library Bill and make a report on it. We accordingly submit it to the conference. It is a satisfactory sign of the times that sufficient interest has been aroused in the country as to necessitate a bill for the development of the libraries. As a matter of fact this constitutes a fresh step in the promotion of adult education in Madras Presidency. Unfortunately it is not as comprehensive and as democratic as it is desired and on account of these two defects the Bill is open to criticism.

In the preamble it has been stated that the bill seeks to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a system of Public Libraries and for the comprehensive development and organisation of rural and urban library service in the Presidency of Madras. The provisions as stated in the bill do not give enough scope for the expansion of libraries or for their maintenance nor do they help in the development and organisation of rural and urban library service in a fairly satisfactory manner. In the first place, we detect in the bill a restricted scheme of library operation in which all

powers are vested in what are called the library authorities. The library authorities for the purpose of the bill are the Corporation of Madras, the various District Boards and the Municipalities in the presidency. These local authorities are also assisted by committees whose composition is unlimited and leaves much to be desired. To these local authorities have been given powers to establish joint committees and attempt the formation of regional committees, and this net work of committees and local authorities is to be under the dual protection of a Provincial Advisory Committee and the Director of Libraries, so that a complex machinery has been instituted which would, in practical working, render nugatory the purposes and objects of the bill. The present bill, it would seem, has designed a very complicated system of administration that has left little scope for individual initiative and popular control. It has been the experience of many that the local bodies, at any rate in the Madras Presidency, have become places where most unseemly conflicts take place to the detriment of real work and responsibility with which such bodies are invested. Therefore, the first requisite, if the bill is to promote the cause of library movement, is to divest the local boards of the powers now sought to be assigned to them. At the same time, since the local boards are centres from where radiate all those measures and activities which go to increase rural prosperity and enlightenment, their cooperation cannot be minimised. Consequently, it is necessary to associate

them with this work of widening the stream of literacy through a growth in the number of libraries. In order to incorporate such an idea into this bill, there is the need for a thorough and wholesale amendment. Local bodies might be recognised for this purpose as vehicles through which the active work might be done, while dispossessing them of powers over libraries and the expenditure of monies. The committees which are associated with the local authorities must have more initiative and control over the local authorities than vice versa. This implies that the composition and the functions of the committees as well as those of the library authorities must be changed. It also necessitates the taking of a census of the libraries in the area under each local authority so that there may be appropriate representation and adequate popular control. Once having done that, the next step is to apply the same principle to the Provincial Advisory Committee. When presiding over the Third Anniversary of the Madras Library Association, Lord Stanley, Governor of Madras drew pointed attention to the difficulty of languages encountered by lovers of library movement in attempting to draw up new schemes for their betterment. Those linguistic difficulties still persist and as the constitution of the Provincial Advisory Committee now stands, it is most unsatisfactory and proper linguistic representation cannot be had unless its constitution is widened to take due representatives from each linguistic area. It is also to be observed that the representation of two persons for a comparatively new association like the Madras Library Association is exaggerating its importance and must be limited to one. The

absence of old and established institutions like the Andhra Desa Library Association and All India Public Libraries Association by the way is to be regretted. It behoves the framer of the bill to make provisions for the representatives of each linguistic area covered by Telugu, Tamil, Canarese and Malayalam. If it is possible for the Government to so arrange, they can open the places in the committee for election from the Libraries in each linguistic area after making an electoral roll which can be easily prepared. Nomination by the local government or by interested associations or election by the legislative council have been found in the past merely to be happy hunting grounds for individual self expression rather than opportunities for selfless disinterested service. Under these circumstances, the principle of nomination and appointment must be eliminated. If these defects can be remedied and the bill suitably amended, it will command not only popular satisfaction but also help the growth of libraries. Throughout this bill, it has been the case that initiative has been taken away from the committees and they are asked to function at the behest or reference of the government or the local authorities in a haphazard and inattentive manner. The best course would be to appoint a committee to go into the question of libraries, survey the possibilities of libraries expansion in relation to the co-operation of local bodies and private enterprise and study the expediency and wisdom of linking up Library administration with the Local Boards or the Department of Education and to enquire into the feasibility of facilitating library utility by creating a new department of libraries on the lines of Public Health Department or Labour Department.

It seems to be desirable that a Committee of Enquiry like the Royal Commission on public libraries in Great Britain be appointed and then initiate a Bill after the findings of the Committee are available.

Our Bengal Libraries Trip

(By Two Library Enthusiasts)

In connection with the Indian Library Conference held in Calcutta last September, the organisers had arranged an excellent trip in the Hooghly district for the delegates. It was a happy thought on the part of Messrs. Dutta and Asadullah to have thus planned out an excursion. Two huge charabancs were chartered for the occasion and at 12 noon on 19-9-33; the delegates accompanied by Messrs Dutta, Rudra, Munindra Deb Mahasay M.L.C. and Kshitindra Deb Mahasay started out on their 100 miles tour. The first stop was Uttarapara where the Uttarapara Library was visited. It stands on the banks of the Hooghly and commands an ideal view of the River and the opposite embankment. With its Corinthian columns, its spacious halls and rooms, housing one of the ancient and magnificent libraries in Bengal, it is easily the best that we had the privilege of seeing. An address was presented to the visitors. After a brief reply by Mr. Labhu Ram, the journey was resumed towards Serampore where a grand reception awaited the new-comers. Serampore has a library kept up by the municipality in excellent condition. We were told that a large number of the townsmen make use of the institution which has a very decent collection of Bengali, Hindi, Urdu and English publications and books. The Chairman

and the members of the municipality had lavished hospitality in the proverbial Indian manner by arranging a Social and Presentation of Addresses which were replied to by a representative selection of the delegates consisting of Messrs. D.T. Rao, Gopalan, Subbaiah, and Yusufuddin Ahmed. The delegation next proceeded to Chandar Nagar where the Lord Mayor and the public received the Library tourists with great enthusiasm. The library is located in a splendid mansion and is diligently looked after. A large collection of books and journals is made available everyday to the readers. After once again partaking of the hospitality of our friends in French India, with their At Homes, Receptions and Photographs we left for Hooghly which was reached at about 5-30 P. M. We were received in the Hooghly District Board Offices which stand in one of the long verandahed buildings reminiscent of the days of East India Company. The Chairman of the District Board, Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerji presented the delegacy with an address of welcome which was most felicitously and eloquently responded to by Mr. D. T. Rao during the course of which he dwelt on the responsibility of civic bodies in providing for adult education through the agency of public libraries. He instanced the cases of United States, Germany and Russia in having

extended by legislation and executive efforts the conveniences for stamping out illiteracy and spreading knowledge. Mr. Gopalan, Government of India Librarian, also acknowledged in happy terms the welcome given to the librarian that day by the District Board of Hooghly. After coursing through a pleasant territory edging the banks of the Ganges, the next and final stop for the day was Bansbaria. The local library, a model little structure built in conformity with the latest design was the rendezvous for us and the townsmen who were again ready with the usual "sweets" "addresses" and "photographs". An American friend who took great interest in social service presided at that evening's function which was practically thronged to its fullest capacity. Lots of shouts, garlands and the rest of the greetings followed in quick succession until Kumar Munindra Deb Mahasay and Kumar Kshindra Deb Mahasay presented us with two addresses of welcome. A heart-felt response on behalf of the delegation was given by Mr. D. T. Rao in a comprehensive speech. The District Collector also was present after the proceedings were half way through. Both he and the chairman of the meeting expressed their sympathy to the Library movement in a few well chosen words. It was already 8-30 P. M. and the whole party reached Calcutta by about 10 P. M.

The next two days were spent in Library sight seeing. The college libraries were, as usual, kept up in a tidy condition and there was not much, it may be said without reflection on the management, of interest to tourist librarians like ourselves, though it must be said there was lot of technique about them. A great deal of interest and enthu-

siasm attached to the Nahas Museum maintained by a well known Marwari vakil of Calcutta. The collection of paintings and sculpture was of such a varied and historic character that the short time we spent was too inadequate for a proper appreciation of the rich historic and art material displayed then.

Our splendid Vakil friend, its owner, gave us an evening "High Tea" when Mr. S. Ranganatham spoke on "Libraries in other countries." Kumar Munindra Deb Mahasay presided on the occasion.

The Mudialy Library, the Lillooah Institution and the Hemchandra Library were the next subjects of our visit. The first is a specimen of what a suburban library is capable of doing under able management. It has the co-operation of the gentry of the locality which included one of the Nawabs of the Moghal Dynasty—a thorough bred of the Delhi Royal House. At Lillooah, the Railway Colony maintains an excellent library where again we were treated to music, magic, and the inevitable "feasting". Owing to failure of lights, there was not fortunately much of the routine "speech making". At Kidderpore, the Lord Mayor of Calcutta took us round the library which is named after the famous poet Hem Chandra of Bengal. After a light break-fast provided to us by the very kind officers of the management we were welcomed by the Lord Mayor in a cordial and brotherly address which was responded to by Mr. D. T. Rao in apt and fervent terms, reciprocating the fraternal sentiments expressed by their fellow workers in Kidderpore.

AN IDEAL RURAL LIBRARY.

The last of our visit was to a distant place in the interior of Bengal, fully

fifty miles from Calcutta. Rajbolahat is one of those marshy, mosquito ridden, prosperous villages of Bengal that have given birth to some of the eminent public men of India. Getting into the small compartment of the Toy Railway, known as Amtah Howrah Ry., after a four hours' ride, we reached our destination from where, it was stated, we should go in palanquins to a distance of further six miles. Carried by four bearers, the palanquin is a conveyance not too comfortable but the oscillations—forward, downward and lateral—lend a peculiar boyish charm even to an oldish occupant. Through swamps, marshes and patches of dry ground but all the time surrounded by limitless expanse of ricefields, we were carried until we were within the earshot of Rajbola Hat. The villagers, even, women and girls, no sooner had they sighted the palanquins, blew conches and as we passed amidst the joyous crowds, we were literally flooded with lotuses, roses, jasmine and Parijatha flowers. At last we reached the guest house—only three of us (Messrs. D. T. Rao, I. V. Ramanaiah and Rama Subbaiah) and the unceasing hospitality of the Hindu once more was in waiting. After refreshments which, be it said, were not light, we repaired to the Library, an ideal small institution, brimful of a variety of activities. The birth place

of Poet Hem Chandra, Rajbola Hat was the very picture of national culture and national enthusiasm, and with its School, market place, temples and other time honoured institutions it presents an air of prosperity, affluence and cultural eminence rarely attained by other similar localities. With its 600 weaver families, its economic self-sufficiency was unexcelled. All that is by the way, but, after inspecting two libraries we were the recipients of cordial addresses of welcome in Bengali at a public meeting arranged in the market place. Messrs. I. V. Ramanaiah, D. T. Rao and Rama Subbaiah spoke at length on the library movement and its potentialities. The clock struck 10 P. M. when we were entertained to dinner at the residence of a young friend who befriends the cause of the libraries. In the early hours of the morning we had another palanquin ride to the Railway Station and thence to Calcutta, a journey of pleasant re-collections and loving experiences. The trips in Bengal and Raj Bola Hat in particular had revealed to us, the writers, the realistic unity of Indian life. The same homeliness and cordiality of Andhra was in evidence in Bengal. We cannot afford to forget what all we had received at the hands of our Bengal brothers and hope that we will have another occasion for renewing our friendships.

Public Library Movement in India

The history of the public library movement in India is comparatively of recent origin unless we go back to the days of the Vedas and Brahmanas when each Brahman was a walking encyclopaedia of wisdom and learning. To do so

is however to ignore modern tendencies in historical criticism and even if we ignore the existence of libraries in the Hindu, Moslem and Maharasira periods of Indian history, it is not in any spirit of derision or depreciation of their

material values. All of them have their place in history but not in any definite planned scheme of Public Library Movement. For this our only source of help is the start given to the Public Library Movement by the Gaekwar of Baroda in his dominions through Messrs. Borden & Khudolkar. The story of its objects and its improvement in the land of the Gaekwar under His Highness' patronage and as a separate department of the Government is too well known to need any repetition. The next step was taken in the Andhra Districts at Bezawada by the late Mr. S. V. Narasimha Sastri and Mr. I. V. Ramanaiah who organised a provincial association and a conference to focus the scattered elements of library service and correlate their working and expansion. In order to gain greater experience in Library organisation, Mr. Ramanaiah went to Baroda to study the subject with the late Mr. Kudholkar. After a few years of provincial work the first nonofficial attempt on an All India scale was made in the year 1919, though a year previously the Government of India endeavoured to move in the matter by convening a conference of Government Libraries at Lahore, its net result having been no improvement on the then existing situation. The first Conference of All India Libraries was held at Madras with the late lamented Mr. S. Kasturi Ranga Iyengar the Editor of the Hindu as the Chairman of the Reception Committee and Mr. J. S. Kudolkar as the President. An exhibition was also arranged at the same time which was opened by His Excellency Lord Willingdon. For the Madras Conference there was a fresh accession of strength and the Library spirit manifested itself everywhere and the demand on the services of the All India Public

Library Association then formed were so great that particular areas had to be concentrated upon instead of ramifying its plan of operations. Again a Conference and Exhibition of an All India character was convened at Cocanada in 1923 when Mr. Jayakar, wellknown for his sobriety and constructive imagination, presided. So on at Belgam, Madras, Calcutta, Lahore and Bezawada with the distinguished association of public men of the type of Sir S. Radhakrishnan, C.R. Das, Dr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee, Sir P. C. Roy, Dr. Moti Sagar, Sir Rabindra Nath Tagore, Dr. V. N. Ram, Dr. Urquhart, Rajah Saheb of Challapalli, Mr. Vaman Naik and several equally distinguished scholars and savants. Thus the course of library service on an all India scale continued which included the formation of provincial associations in Bengal, Madras, Maharashtra, Punjab, Hyderabad, Karnatak, Pudukottah etc. But in the year 1931 most unfortunately some separatist tendencies were visible. The unity of endeavour was attempted to be broken up by holding a separate Library Service section as a part of the All Asia Educational Conference and though resolutions were passed to request the All India Library Association to coordinate the work of the librarians in various provinces, and Mr. Manchanda was entrusted with the task of putting himself in touch with it, it was not done. "Vide Res:

XII. That the Library Service Section of the First All-Asia Educational Conference requests the All-India Library Association to co-ordinate the activities of library work in different provinces.

The delegates to Library Service Section of the All-Asia Educational Conference had an internal discussion about the re-organisation of the All-India Library Association. Messrs Ratanchand Manchanda (Lahore), Newton Mohun Dutt

(Baroda) M. O. Thomas (Annamalai Nagar) and G. S. Misra (Benares) took part in a discussion as to what changes might be brought about in the executive of the All-India Library Association. Finally, it was decided that Mr. Ratanchand Manchanda (Lahore) should be requested to correspond with the present executive and formulate definite proposals for consideration at a latter time."

Next came in September 1933 the convening of an All India Librarians' Conference in spite of the fact that an All India Conference was held at Bezwada in April of the same year. It is undoubtedly matter of regret that this series of events should have been engineered through conscious and unconscious effort but one need not weep over it. What is to be deeply deplored is the attitude of men distinguished in the realm of Librarianship—men like Newton M. Dutt and S. R. Ranganathan who have spared no pains in decrying certain aspects of work done under the auspices of the All India Public Library Association.

Despite their hostile attitude it is a happy augury that the movement is flourishing and is receiving increased sympathy and attention at the hands of the public. Both the old institution of the All India Public Library Association and the new born association in Calcutta have found it possible to work harmoniously and in a co-operating spirit mainly due to the spirit of goodwill and understanding that had dominated the discussions there, notwithstanding the presence and activity of a few malcontents. The All India Movement is so wide and varied in its scope that it does not restrict the co-operation and activity of any organisation. It is a pleasure to be able to record after fourteen years of incessant effort that the Library Movement in its All-India dimensions has come to stay

and that it cannot be dismissed as an incident of byeway importance. The burden of steering the movement through the storm and stress of national effort falls on the shoulders of the public who have to bear the task of liquidating the millions from illiteracy and leading them on to the haven of culture and understanding. Unto that end, national forces have to be converged and no effort is too great to keep the banner floating and keep the steam up. Let us Indians hope that the movement will also be kept pure, unaffected by internal mischief or external attack for the cause is too sacred, too great to allow such differential tendencies.

ESSENTIALLY FOR THE MASSES

The Madras Mail had the following Editorial comment on the close of the deliberations of the Seventh Session of the All India Public Libraries Conference. "We commend to the perusal of our readers the speeches delivered at the All-India Public Libraries Conference at Bezwada. They throw light on much that is little understood—the Library movement in this country. This movement, as the Zemindar of Challa-palli remarked, is essentially one for the masses rather than the classes. The latter can usually afford to buy books, or, at least, have more opportunities for borrowing them. The resources of the masses are restricted, and unless the State comes to their aid they have little chance of obtaining access to any substantial number of books. The town or village library, linked in a comprehensive scheme with the Provincial and the National library, is the average individual's sole hope of a choice of books. Moreover, rightly considered, the public library is part and parcel of the educa-

tional system, the sole means by which relapses into illiteracy are likely to be prevented, and the present enormous wastage of public money therein involved ended. It is incredible that Governments, fully alive to these facts as they

must be, are still unwilling to supplement primary education by a system of public libraries, thus making a genuine attempt to render permanent such literacy as the average child is able to obtain during an all too short spell of schooling."

Syllabus for Training in Librarianship

The "Librarianship Sub-committee" appointed by the XVth Andhra Desa Library Conference held at Bezwada in last August, submitted the following Syllabus, and it has been approved by the Conference. The Members of the Sub-committee are:

1. Mr. R. Janardhanam Naidu, B. A. L. T. D. E. (Oxon)
2. Mrs. K. Samuel,
3. Mr. K. Ramarao, M.A., L.T.,
4. Mr. P. Rajasekharam, B.A., B.Sc.,

1 History of Libraries:

Origin of Library Idea ;
Chief ancient libraries of Assyria, Egypt, India, Greece and Rome. Mediaeval libraries of the East and West.

Idea of a modern Library and its evolution in the various countries.

2 Modern Library Service:

Different Types of Libraries:—

Public:—Urban and rural-organisation of central and branch libraries ; Traveling Libraries and delivery stations ; News Rooms and Magazine Rooms special service for women, children, invalids etc.

Private:—Clubs, School, College and University Libraries. The characteristic features of the service expected of each

type of Library and the principles underlying them.

3 Library Organisation.

Library Legislation.

Library Committees, staff, buildings and other equipment.

Acquisition and buying of books ; Records, accounts and other office routine; charging systems; Rules and regulations with regard to hours, holiday opening, age limitations, fine, periods of hours etc.

4 Bibliography:

Manufacture of paper, process of printing, various types of binding.

Collation and description of books.
Bibliographies.

5 Reference work:—

Various forms and the principles underlying them.

6 Book selection :—

Theory, the field of choice, Limitations of selection for and adaptation to Libraries of different sizes and kinds. Selection of periodicals. Aids and guides to selection.

7 Classification :

The purpose of classification; principles of classification ; The aims of book

classification and the results attained by modern systems.

A brief Survey of i Dewey's Decimal classification ii Cutter's expansive classification iii The Library of Congress classification iv Colon classification.

8 *Cataloguing:—*

The nature and purpose of a catalogue and comparative investigation of cataloguing codes.

Author Entry and subject entry.

Preparation for the press; styles of printing and proof reading.

Catalogues for special purposes and mechanical method of displaying catalogues. Library Handwriting.

9 *Outlines of English and Telugu Literatures.*

10 *Special treatment of*

i Closed' and 'open access' systems. ii Card system. iii Library Extension schemes. iv Children's Libraries.

55th American Library Convention

By Dr. S. S. Nehru, M. A., Ph. D., I. C. S.

The following has been submitted by Dr. S. S. Nehru, M. A.; Ph. D.; I. C. S. to Dr. V. S. Ram, M. A., Ph. D.; F. R. H. S. President, All India Public Library Association, Bezwada.

ELECTION TO THE AMERICAN CONVENTION.

The All-India Public Library Conference, held at Bezwada in April last, approved of a panel of 10 names, from which representation to the British Public Libraries Conference and to the International Congress of Libraries at Chicago was to be effected. I accepted the honour of that delegation with some natural diffidence, firstly because I am no librarian, although during my recent labours in the cause of Indian Rural Uplift I had to tackle the paradox of providing libraries for the illiterate, and secondly because I had already before me the prospect of heavy pro-

gramme in connection with two other public capacities, the strain of which may be gauged from the fact that eventually I had to give 25 addresses to University and other public bodies of the United States and Canada in the brief course of 20 days and cover a very wide tract of North America from New York to Missouri and from Washington to Montreal. But I relied on the co-operation of my fellow-delegates, which, however, was not forthcoming as finally I happened to be the only delegate in the field. And yet in the difficult circumstances help, for which I am very grateful, was received from my wife Mrs. Nehru, who shared with me in the onerous burdens of public speaking and, attendance, the Executive of the American Library Association having regularised her status by registering her as a lady delegate from India.

We sailed from Europe on October 5 in the Super-liner "REX", which had

recently won the Blue Ribbon of the Atlantic and landed in New York on the 12th in good time for the Convention which was to open at Chicago on the 16th. On board we had an opportunity of meeting some fellow-delegates, exchanging views and consulting literature which we had not received, the reason being this that India is not a member of the International Federation of Library Associations. One of the most important contacts was Monsign. Eugene Tisserant, Director of the Vatican Library, Vatican City, Italy, who was subsequently to speak on the care and use of records, a subject of special interest to India, a storehouse of secular and religious records.

WARM RECEPTION

We received, as the Indian delegates, publicity from three quarters, one of which was quite unexpected: the Press, the Radio and the Rex, which broadcast in its offices and show-windows in America and Europe an enlargement of our picture taken by its staff photographer alongside those of two noted cinema artists who had also travelled in that world-famous vessel.

The interim of 3 days was spent in New York in taking our bearings from Mr. Angus Fletcher C.B.E. of the British Library of Information, to whom Sir Findlater Stewart, Under-Secretary of State at the India Office had already written introducing us. We are very much obliged to Sir Findlater for having secured us this invaluable contact, for in Mr. Angus Fletcher we found a tower of strength not only in New York—where he generously placed the resources of his Library at our disposal, but also in Chicago, where as a member of the Executive Committee of the Con-

vention and a delegate he was good enough to introduce us at the gala banquet of the Convention, at an important meeting of its Agricultural Libraries Committee in which we were specially interested and to many prominent fellow-delegates and local notabilities. Among such, at his festive board, the British Consul-General, Mr. Bernays, a brother of the well-known M.P., whom we were glad to make the acquaintance of, had himself lived a considerable time in India and was of help to us in getting a comparative idea of conditions in the two big agricultural countries, America and India. This we used to advantage during our subsequent talks.

OPENING DAY.

October 16th was the opening day of the Convention. Preliminaries began in the morning with registration, introductions and inspection of the commercial and professional exhibits housed in the Exhibition Hall of the Stevens Hotel, the biggest hotel in the world, the ball-room of which yet proved too small to seat the 2,500 delegates to the convention. This is not to be confused with the World Exhibition called "A Century of Progress," a quarter-mile away on the Lake shore, which has also got wonderful buildings and stands of particular interest to libraries and bibliophiles. In the Exhibition Hall of the hotel we were specially interested in the sections devoted to Hospitality, Public Health and Children's Literature. The first showed the extent of the trouble which the energetic sub-committee of 35 for State and Local Hospitality had taken to arrange numerous breakfasts, luncheons and dinners at which delegates interested in particular subjects of sections could easily assemble

and join in talks, lectures, symposia, discussions etc.; the second gave a clear view of progress in public health which concerns India intimately if, for no other reason, than this that the Rockefeller Foundation is doing so much for the public health of our country: the third threw valuable light on the problems of the literate and the semiliterate and how to meet them.

THE RURAL PROBLEM

After a very hurried luncheonette in the hotel drug-store (and to save time the bulk of the delegates had put up in the same Stevens Hotel, in which the Convention was to meet) we attended, by appointment, the inaugural meeting of the Agricultural Libraries Section. Here our friend Mr. Fletcher kindly introduced us to Miss Cora Miltimore, of the University of Florida Library and to the sectional meeting, and here it was that we gave our first talk. We invited help in trying to solve our own special library problems of the Rural Area, in having to supply books or much rather the instruction contained in or imparted through books to a big mass of the population which lacked primary education and could not read or write. The need then was to overcome the evils of that paradox—belles-lettres or to make them useful for the essentially illiterate by supplying, in an adequate measure, libraries for the rural area, Librarians for the rural area and a suitably trained corps of readers, or lecturers, or speakers or, as we called them, Kathaists for the rural area, who take advantage of the rural literature, useful, cultural and of other kinds which the local librarian, permanent or travelling, would place in their hands and who would thereafter impart the knowledge contained in

that literature to circles of hearers among the village folk as they gathered round them in their leisure hours in the evenings or at other times and patiently listened to all they had to say. In course of time, in fact, quite early in the day, whatever uninformed sceptics might say to the contrary, it should be possible to replace the itinerant speaker with the fixed radio, which would reproduce the best instruction suited to the rural area at many centres of that rural area. Short of the radio, the possibilities of which had already been envisaged by that eminently practical body, the Indian Franchise Committee, which quite early in its masterly report on the education of the rural masses, had suggested the desirability of helping the illiterate voter through rural broadcasts, there was no other way of approaching the unwieldy but not necessarily apathetic masses, inhabiting the rural area, who, as experience so far had shown were keenly awake and responsive to attempts to uplift them and bring them within the orbit of progress. But the bigger problem remained: the radio afforded a partial solution; how else the problem was to be solved we, who had crossed half the globe in the spirit of humble seekers after knowledge were now going to have the privilege of hearing from this convention in America where the problem of rural uplift had been solved with such wonderful success.

AGRICULTURAL SECTION

The address was received with great sympathy and approval and many interesting contacts were secured thereafter. Then came the scheduled lectures on the Response of Science to Agriculture; Books and their uses in

Agricultural stations which we shall be glad to utilise at the Agriculture Section meeting of the Indian Science Congress in January 1934.

A BANQUET.

At 6 p. m. came the gala banquet at which we all foreign delegates, 20 in number, drawn from many leading countries in the world, were the guests of honour. Mr. Fletcher introduced us felicitously one by one and one by one we responded in suitable terms. After the gala banquet at 8 p. m. came the formal overture of the convention in ballroom of the Stevens Hotel, with addresses of welcome from the president of the Northwestern University of Evanston, Ill. and from the Vice-President, University of Chicago. Then followed the presentation of foreign delegates. Last came the President's address on Unanswered Questions delivered by Harry Miller Lydenberg of the New York Public Library. We all refer to this in our final words on impressions. A reception which continued till 11 p. m. brought the busy evening to a close.

LIBRARIANS' DAY

October 17 was the special Librarians' day at the Century of Progress in the World's Fair. Of special interest to Librarians at the Fair were the applications on a colossal scale of visual methods to reach big sections of the population through the souzelled representations of reconstructions of temples like the Maya temple by Frans Blom and the Jehol temple by Vincent Bendix. Mr. Blom headed the Tolane University Middle American Research Department expedition to the Maya

country and has reproduced a wing of the famous Nunnery which dated back to prehistoric times and throws a flood of light on conditions in Prehistory, which are of special interest to India in view of the equally amazing finds in Harappa and Mohenjodaro in the Punjab and Sind respectively. Thanks to this visual representation method, the highly intricate archaeological research embodied in these studies has been popularised in a way which strikes the imagination of the man in the street and makes for culture. Equally significant is the Jehol temple, consisting of 28,000 pieces of wood which fit together without nails. It reproduces the finest Lama temple of China and awakened interest in the cultural and social, not to mention the directly religious, life of that ever-fascinating country.

CONVOCATION'S SECOND DAY

On October 18 the Second General Session of the Convention was held under William Warner Bishop, president International Federation of Library Associations, with an attendance of nearly 3,000, which packed the hall so that late comers like ourselves who were slightly delayed were glad to find a seat on the steps of the fire-escape. This shows the inconceivable interest taken in the convention by the general public. And these speeches too were worthy of the occasion: By Mons. Tisserant of the Vatican Library on the "What the preservation of records of scholarship means to changing civilisation;" by Arundell Esdaile on the Social Responsibility of the Modern Library; by Isak Collijn on Society's Responsibility to maintain Institutions of Education and Scholarship. These speakers were respectively the librarian

of the Vatican Library, the Secretary of the British Museum and the President, International Federation of Library Associations. The subjects have special interest and appeal so far as India is concerned.

RECEPTION TO GUESTS

On October 19 there was open House for delegates at the Illinois Host House, Century of Progress World's Exhibition, Avenue of Flags. The Reception was sponsored by the Hosts Committee and the Literature Committee of the Convention and the programme included fifteen leading writers of America who were the guest speakers at the Reception. They clashed with another important item on the general programme, a visit to the agricultural library of Dr. Thordarson, which dropped in favour of the reception which gave us an excellent opportunity of meeting and hearing the prominent American authors.

CLOSING DAYS

October 20 and 21 the last two days of the Convention were devoted to sectional meetings regarding Hospital Libraries, Law Libraries, School Libraries, Religious Libraries, Trustees, Salaries and Employment, Order and Book Selection, which we were regretfully compelled to miss, as unavoidable rival obligations in other capacities took us to the Kirksville College of Electronics in Missouri in the West and to the University of Wisconsin at Madison in the North, the former being 12 hours' run from Chicago and both impossible to railride and the latter 200 miles motor, fit into the library programme. But subsequently when we

reached Yale University in New Haven, Conn., during our lecture tour of the Universities, we were fortunate in regaining contact with some of our foreign colleagues there, and particular in renewing acquaintance with Mr. Andrew Keogh, the eminent British Librarian of the grand new Yale University Library and examining the marvellous working of that most modern, up-to-date and efficient institution.

VALUE TO INDIA

Finally and fundamentally, there arises this question and calls for answer: What is, for India, the message and lesson of the fifty-fifth annual convention of the American Library Association? Strictly speaking, the convention was national and not international, although foreign delegates numbering 20, as against 2,500 local were glad of the opportunity to join and did so with great pleasure and profit. The problems affecting and the evils besetting India, in regard to Library service, needs, finance, function, future, could not be discussed as such, no more than those effecting any other foreign country. But the way in which American problems were themselves approached by the American speakers and the points of international interest taken up by the three eminent foreign delegates was in itself an education for one who had come half way round the globe in quest of light and leading for his own country. The teaching of the convention may therefore be summed up as follows:

THE SALT OF LIFE

So Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, the President's wife and the First Lady on the Land has observed: "There is in

question in my mind but that the public library is essential to the growth of the people in any community. Unless one can read and find the answers to the numerous questions which come up in everyday life, the opportunity for mental growth is necessarily denied". And another eminent writer has compared economy in library service to economy in salt: Don't cut this salt out of your budget, which gives savor to most of life, which brings out the flavour and the meaning of many of life's happenings, which especially in times of material hardship and privation, can do more than any one factor to make life palatable. But that is not all; there is more to it: An efficient Library Service meets real human needs. In these critical times when our young men are looking for openings and our old men are—or *should be* looking for improvement, where else except in a good public library can questions of such acute practical turn be answered, questions such as: How can I make dry ice? Draw nichrome wire? Run an efficient market-garden? Can mangoes construct an electric cane-crusher? Set up Linotype for Hindi? Grade milk? Prepare for examinations etc.?

As the New York Times has said "With the exception of agencies giving actual relief, the public libraries of the United States are perhaps the most important institutions during times of business depression". Obviously they afford opportunities for self-improvement, for vocational re-education, for adult education, for change of business or profession, and the like. As Arundell Esdaile, the Secretary of the British Museum has pointed out, the social responsibility of the Library is very serious. Not to keep it at the highest pitch of perfection

is to rob the state and its subjects of an essential and irreplaceable vehicle of progress.

RURAL SCHEMES

The Rural Uplift Library will therefore be no more collection of uninteresting obsolete books but a real *rural uplift exhibition on wheels*. This has already been tried in one province of India with a considerable measure of success. It has been the beautiful ideal of uplift through visual representation methods. Even in England the Village Community Circulating Library, say that run by the Kent Community Council, has not been able to better that example.

DIRECT CONTACT NEEDED

But it is not enough to collect things and to send them round: care is to be taken to see that they are actually used. Opportunity should be given to writers for the rural no less than to those for urban area to come into contact with the great masses for whom they are believed to cater to meet them in the flesh, instead of as abstract automaton, through cold print. The American system of getting authors to come forward and speak is an excellent stimulus to progress and calculated to do great and real good all round. No author will hesitate to do so; on the contrary, he will come forward and give talks with alacrity. And in the large majority of cases he will be repaid through the wide publicity he will be given himself.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS.

And then there are special libraries for special interests; Libraries for pri-

soners—What are the intelligence and education of the average prisoner? He has the time but has he also the will to read? Given half a chance, will he and can he read? What books should he get? Vocational or recreational? Does he require a resident civilian librarian? And can a jail visitor who looks after intellectual and spiritual welfare serve as honorary librarian of the prison? And specialising still further, what can we do for the youngsters, from ten to fifteen years old?

Again specialist libraries are very badly needed for our hospitals. We know and hear a lot of the psychological factor and how essential it is to keep a patient's mind off his disease, or off his shop or rut, which may be worse than a disease. But are books kept in adequate quantities and of the right quality, the standard being set high brow nor the *viveur*, but by the average man who would utilise his hours of idleness to improve himself by self-education and incidentally to obtain some amusement as well. Such a hospital library could be easily stocked with literature and periodicals supplied by citizens who have no further use for them.

And there are special libraries for the blind; special libraries for children; special libraries for workers; special libraries for women; and a host of other specialities.

FINANCIAL HELP

The problem, as discussed in the convention and expanded and modified for India, is basically two-fold: awakening interest and finding funds. As to awakening interest, there is hardly one of us who has not personally or in friends' or relations' cases, seen hours of idleness

wasted in hospitals when suitable literature would have kept the mind engaged, speeded up recovery and made for self-improvement. No such case requires further propagandising in favour of libraries. Still less does the case for libraries for the blind, the infirm, the prisoners etc. As to finding funds, the convention has made out a strong case for retention of existing grants uncut and for increasing them in many ways and under many heads. Thus a special session was devoted to considering "Where there's a Will"—there are ways of promoting library endowments through bequest. People are dying and property is changing hands under wills. How can library endowments be built up? Libraries are only infrequently mentioned in lists of beneficiaries? What mistakes should be avoided? What sort of cooperation can lawyers and trust officers give? Can the State not earmark a certain dime or centime of the death duties for library purposes?

PARADOX OF LIBRARY SERVICE

We opened with one paradox, we end in another, paradox after paradox: It is a case of the blind leading the blind! We want good libraries. This presupposes good librarians, really efficient librarians and not apathetic officials who would consider seekers after knowledge an unmitigated nuisance, disturbers of their peace. We cited a case to the amusement of the gala banquet within our own experience in which Aircraft got somehow associated with herring, in the otherwise wideawake mind of the gentleman who had been interrogating. The problem of library training is most important of all. And library service is by no means the least among the services a modern state has to offer.

EDITORIALS

Ourselves

The Indian Library Journal is again making its appearance after a lapse of about 4 years. The All India Public Library Association had published it in the past, but what with the lack of public zeal on the one hand and financial depression on the other, the promoters had to confine themselves during the interregnum, to the substantial work of library service rather than to the routine publication of the events of the month or the year. The varied nature of the movement carried on under its auspices which has phenomenally has, however, laid on the Association the inescapable task of publishing the journal again. In an enlarged and more informative form in which it now appears the journal, it is felt, will be of increased interest to the class of readers for whom it is intended. Its policy will remain as before and it will have as its ideal not only the extension of the Library movement into every town and village of this vast continent but will also keep in view and deal with the latest advances made in the science of library management and administration in order to make them more useful to the community. As Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt, the distinguished wife of the

President of the Republic of the United States of America has stated.

"There is no question but that the public library is essential to the growth of the people in any country".

And its necessity to the growth of Indian nation is more urgent than ever. The fashioners of education in our country have too long and too far wandered in the blind alleys of school and college instruction leaving aside the potential field of adult education through libraries untouched and unexplored. That this duty by our illiterate countrymen, adult and non-adult, namely to make them literate and cultured imposes a greater burden on social workers is too manifest and within these pages as they are issued, will an attempt be made to lay before the public the nature, scope and activities of the Library movement in India. The task is great and with the prevalence of economic depression throughout the land - the difficulties have been doubled; but with good-will and support from the library workers and sympathisers, it is hoped to survive the operation of financial stringency. The journal looks forward to the co-operation of all friends of this humanitarian cause in making it the success it aspires to be.

The Calcutta Conference

The Joint Secretaries of the All India Public Libraries Association have issued an important communique laying out clearly their views on the position of the Public Library Movement in India in the following terms:—

"In view of the first All-India Library Conference held at Calcutta last week, and the inauguration of an India Library Association we feel it our duty to state, in clear terms, the position of the All India Public Library Association in relation to the new organisation. The

All India Public Library Association which was started nearly fourteen years ago had been responsible, it will be remembered, for the growth and popularity of the Library Movement in India. The provincial and state Library associations in the Panjab, Bengal, Madras, Maharashtra, Pudukota, Hyderabad and several other areas are the results of its activities and with the last conference held at Bezawada in April this year, the work is being carried on with greater zeal and vigour. Notwithstanding the presence of the All India Public Library Association, the Calcutta Conference was summoned and the proceedings of the body have left no room to doubt that there were spheres of work in which two institutions of an All-India character with more or less the same objects can work in a spirit of cooperation and goodwill. We have appreciated the earnestness and sympathetic attitude evinced by both the organisations to solve the problems of library management and library extension. We wish to make it plain that the method of cooperation on which the All India Public Library Association seeks to work with the newly founded Indian Library Association does not mean any merger. The realm of library service is so great that both will continue their individual existence and work ahead, with their programmes, each one complementing the labours of the other. In the scheme of Libraries' expansion, we look forward to the cooperation and assistance of the Government of India and local Governments, and quasi Governmental concerns and the coordinated endeavours of the two associations, we trust, will bring about a widened outlook on the part of the Government and a full realisation of the State's responsibilities in this direction."

The All India Library Conference held at Calcutta during September last is one more indication of the interest shown by Governmental and non-Governmental bodies alike in the cause of the Library movement. To those who have been accustomed to working in the field of the Public Library move-

ment, the scope of the Calcutta Conference seems from experience, somewhat narrow and limited. The sphere of the Library movement is admittedly vast and to enquire into the question of the need for one or more library organisations appears unnecessary. It is, however, true that it could have been possible for the sponsors of the Calcutta Conference to work in collaboration with the All-India Public Library Association. But it was not to be; and once the way for a new venture, having been prepared by certain Library enthusiasts, it would have been devoid of grace if the propriety of the sessions was questioned. Holding as we do, that the Library movement does not admit of jealousies or prejudices, the Calcutta Conference is to be hailed as a welcome sign that the movement started by Messrs. Borden and Kudalkar in Baroda and Mr. Narasimha Sastry and Mr. I. V. Ramanaiah in British India has evoked a measure of response even in circles classed as official. The Calcutta Conference has achieved certain results for which we congratulate the organisers as well as the participants in the Conference deliberations. The resolutions adopted have confined the ambit of its activity to a purely technical method of library progress. While the publicity to the Library movement which had been so efficiently conducted in the past by the All India Public Library Association has been unfortunately ignored by the present conference, the need for it cannot be overlooked in the zeal for technique and as regards the immediate application of the foreign classification ideas to the management of Indian Libraries too much doubt still exists. The various systems mainly the Dewey, the Cutter, and the Borden methods of classification have

not been conclusively proved to be useful, and their adaptability to the vernaculars of India remains yet to be satisfactorily answered. Under these circumstances, there will be a general agreement that the technique of books classification is a realm in which library scientists may explore with advantage. We should have been more pleased if the Calcutta Conference were alive in this matter to a greater degree than is evident. In this connection, we cannot help referring to the misunderstandings that were attempted to be created between

the new Indian Library Association and the All-India Public Library Association. In our opinion there is always ample room in an organisation of any kind for joint work and joint responsibility. The statement issued by the Joint Secretaries of the All-India Public Libraries Association is a clear and welcome token of the goodwill that exists between the senior and the junior organisations and we join them in their hopes for the furtherance of the Library movement with the continued assistance of the public and the state.

The First All India Rural Libraries Service Conference*

Last April, when the sessions of the seventh All India Public Library conference was held at Pezwada, a momentous departure was made by Dr. V. S. Ram and the Raja Sileb of Challapalli in dealing with the library movement. Both of them had laid emphasis on the importance of libraries to the masses and to the villagers and it is a matter of deep congratulation that the All India Public Library Association had realised its importance, and set out first with the celebration of the Library Week throughout the country and secondly with the organization of the All India Rural Library Service Conference at Madras in Christmas week. The sponsors of the movement Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliar, Mr. Ramanaiah and Mrs. Hilda Wood, not to say of the distinguished friends that had participated in the conference, have revealed the necessity of the magnitude of the work that lies ahead if the Library movement were to justify its implications. Dr. M. O.

Thomas, the president, in a valuable speech had cited unimpeachable statistical evidence to show that the Library work in India is an important factor in the cultural emancipation of our society, if only the movement can be set to such a mighty undertaking. Social demands have grown large and are growing wider day by day. In a poverty stricken country like India, the obligation of the State and social workers seem to be of necessity, more urgently calling for fulfilment than elsewhere. Legislation and voluntary effort backed up by public support and appreciation conjointly provide a solvent to the myopic problem of Rural Library Service. The question of providing a satisfactory scheme of Library Service has puzzled even the U. S. A. Government who have long had the advantage of experience in Public Library Administration. The advent of the cinema, the talkie, the radio and television have sufficiently presented the honest worker with a variety of

* A report of the conference will be published in the next issue.

ameliorative and instructive agencies which have to be employed for the better use of knowledge, while the growing number of occupations and their shifting nature even among rural population and rural areas have opened up fields of discussion and consideration. Dr. S. S. Nehru who, with Mrs. Nehru, attended the last session of the American Library convention representing the All India Public Library Conference, after participating in its deliberations has stated the problem in his illuminating report in a series of questions.

And then as regards the rural area: What do rural people themselves want in the way of rural education? How far agencies other than the rural library meeting those needs? How can the library co-operate with those agencies? How can the corps of lecturers or kathaists be trained to use the rural Library with greater effect and the library itself stocked and kept up-to-date with greater success? How shall visual methods be utilised to the greatest advantage? Posters, diagrams, sketches, replicas, reproductions, models, pictures, lanterns, cinemas, radio—how shall all these powerful means be made available in the cause of rural uplift and education? How should all such exhibits be assembled with the minimum of cost? How should they be used with the maximum of advantage? How far should they be expected to pay for themselves in tangible results? How to assess such results?

These indicate the difficulties and the report of the proceedings of the Rural Conference fully convinces that they have been approached with experience, wisdom and circumspection. The resolutions have shown the methods of work to be followed which, we have no doubt whatsoever, will be adopted by library workers. The experiments in America and England, Russia and nearer home in Baroda are a pointer to us that the path bristles with impediments of no ordinary kind. No one gainsays now the fact that lack of adequate support from the Government in British India renders the work more difficult of accomplishment.

In spite of it, much work has been done by young library enthusiasts all over India in starting rural library centres. More remains to be done but given a greater number of young men aspiring to be true servants of society, keen to elevate the welfare of their fellow brethren and alive to the needs of country as a whole; the scheme of Rural Library service can be operated with greater enthusiasm and more fruitful results. The occasion needs men—men of enterprise, men of knowledge and lastly men of sacrifice, discipline and service. The resolutions need implementing through concrete efforts, and ere the twelve-month is finished, it is hoped the conference will be able to present a record of work that will be a pride to those engaged in it.

G.O.M. OF INDIAN LIBRARIES

An interesting resolution was passed at the Rural Libraries Conference according Mr. N. M. Amin the title of "Grandhalaya Udyama Pithamha" which literally means the grand father of the Library movement, a rare recognition of his valuable services to the cause. Mr. Amin had popularised the Library movement in Baroda State long before the Gaekwar instituted the Department of Libraries and his experience had served the state in goodstead. The award of the title by the conference to him who stands as a representative in the sphere of Library service as an unknown warrior of the countless workers is a signal honour to him and to his fellow—workers. His patient and long service is a lesson unto us and may he live long to contribute his assistance to the enlightenment of the people through his pet and chosen medium of the Rural Library.

